FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 DECEMBER 1983

PLO Affairs

'Arafat in Egypt — "Egypt has returned to the Arabs and we will not allow any force to exclude Egypt from its Arab nation again," PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stated in an interview in Egypt's *AL-AHRAM* as reported by MENA. On 22 December 'Arafat held a closed meeting with President Husni Mubarak in Cairo and then went to the port of Suez where he was to board a ship bound for the YAR.

A Fatah Central Committee statement emphasized that the visit resulted from 'Arafat's "unilateral decision," conflicting with the principle of collective leadership, and said that 'Arafat would be held solely responsible for the visit. The statement, which was reported by AFP, also promised that the committee would discuss the issue and issue a final statement. PLO military second in command Khalil al-Wazir and Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi did not attend the Central Committee meeting that issued the statement, AFP observed. In remarks to KUNA, PLO Executive Committee member Salah Khalaf also underlined 'Arafat's responsibility for the visit and asserted that the visit contravenes PNC and Fatah resolutions. Similarly, PFLP Secretary General George Habash characterized the visit as "blunt defiance and flagrant violation" of recent PNC resolutions and called for 'Arafat's dismissal from all his PLO posts, Damascus radio reported, while DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah expressed his organization's condemnation of the visit in remarks to ANA. The PFLP-General Command, As-Sa'iqah, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, and PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum all also criticized 'Arafat's visit, according to SANA reports, as did the Palestine Liberation Front, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Israel views the meeting between 'Arafat and Mubarak as "an overt violation" of the Israel-Egypt peace treaty, Jerusalem radio revealed. The Foreign Ministry instructed Israel's ambassador in Washington to inform Assistant Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger of its position. In an interview with the radio, Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, opined that the meeting "does not constitute a violation of the peace treaty."

Future Plans — In his interview with *AL-AHRAM* 'Arafat confirmed that once his forces are relocated the Fatah command will meet to discuss "all dimensions" of the Tripoli experience. Following that meeting the "Palestinian constitutional institutions," including the PLO Executive Committee and the PNC, will be convened and no one, including the Fatah dissidents, will be deprived of membership. 'Arafat also predicted a "comprehensive restructuring of the PLO's institutions." Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan announced in a statement to the Qatari paper *AR-RAYAH* that a Fatah general congress will be convened in January 1984 with the PNC to meet in February, WAKH reported. Al-Hasan also confirmed that 'Arafat will go to Jordan for talks with King Husayn and announced that Palestinian-Jordanian confederation is "one of the constant and important facts" in the future. On the talks with Jordan, Salah Khalaf stated that "these negotiations do not deal with the Reagan plan," but instead focus on the Arab peace plan announced at the Fes summit. In an interview with *LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS*, cited by KUNA, Khalaf also announced that the PLO would immediately cease military activities if serious negotiations to find a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian problem begin.

North Lebanon — The dissident Palestinian forces will begin withdrawing from their positions around Tripoli, regrouping, and moving to the front against Israel within the next 24 hours, according to a dissident spokesman cited by Radio Monte Carlo. Meanwhile, former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, who heads the Tripoli Higher Coordination Council, called on the Palestinians to withdraw to "the camps and Al-Biqa'," in accordance with the Syrian-Saudi agreement on the disengagement and withdrawal of pro- and anti-'Arafat forces in the area, KUNA announced.

Iran

The "combatants of Islam" killed or wounded over 30 "counter-revolutionaries," captured 5 others, and took 11 villages and areas in Kordestan from the rebels in an operation 13-19 December, Tehran radio announced.

Lebanon

Michael Haseltine, British secretary of state for defense, arrived in Beirut on 23 December to inspect the British contingent of the Multinational Force, Beirut radio reported. He reiterated that the contingent will remain in Beirut "until it completes its mission."

A car loaded with TNT was discovered before it could explode in Beirut, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The radio also reported continued clashes in the Al-Kharrub region, where the Red Cross has requested that the warring factions cease firing to allow the evacuation of three Red Cross officials who were injured when their car set off a landmine. Clashes also continued around Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb, according to Beirut radio.

Israel

Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Meir resigned, Jerusalem television reported, "to devote more time and energy" to the National Religious Party, which he represents.

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Reaction to 'Arafat's Meeting With Mubarak

Khalaf Expresses Surprise

LD221337 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1302 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Tunis, 22 Dec (KUNA) — Salah Khalaf — Abu Iyad — member of the Central Committee of the Fatah movement, said that Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, was personally responsible for his visit to Cairo and his official talks with President Husni Mubarak. He described this step as "constituting a contravention to the resolutions of the PNC and Fatah movement conferences." Salah Khalaf told KUNA: "We are surprised by the move taken by Brother Yasir 'Arafat to visit Cairo and to hold talks with President Husni Mubarak."

An informed Palestinian source told KUNA that members of the Central Committee of the Fatah movement and of the PLO Executive Committee in Tunis will meet this evening to assess 'Arafat's move.

PFLP-GC Condemnation

JN221834 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 22 Dec (SANA) — The PFLP-GC has strongly condemned Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and his meeting with the Egyptian regime's leaders. It affirmed that this visit means recognition of Camp David and a desire to enter open negotiations with the Zionist enemy as a preliminary step toward abandoning Palestine and the Palestinian cause.

In a statement here today, the front's official spokesman urged the Arab and Palestinian masses to meet their responsibilities, to loudly voice their opposition to this treasonous move, and to announce their final judgment against 'Arafat. The spokesman also urged the PNC to adopt a decision against 'Arafat and relieve him from his responsibility because he violated PNC resolutions, particularly since these resolutions stipulate boycotting the Camp David regime.

Concluding his statement, the spokesman called on the PLO Executive Committee to define its stand on 'Arafat and his line in light of his deviations, particularly his meeting with the Egyptian regime's officials.

Popular Struggle Front

JN221621 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 22 Dec (SANA) — The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front has vehemently condemned Yasir 'Arafat's visit to the Egyptian regime and his meeting with this regime's officials. It described this step as a flagrant deviation from the PNC resolutions and a relinquishment of the Palestinian people's objectives. The front said that this step makes it necessary for 'Arafat to resign from the PLO and for Palestinian affairs to be rearranged.

In a statment issued here today, the front's official spokesman considers 'Arafat's step a prelude to more serious steps, represented by resuming talks with the Jordanian regime in an attempt to conclude a joint agreement with this regime in order to enter settlement negotiations with the U.S. Administration and the Zionist enemy on the basis of the Reagan plan. The spokesman said: 'Arafat's meetings with officials of the Egyptian regime clearly mean a final abandonment of our people's objectives and their natural rights to struggle against their enemies and a final relinquishment of the Palestinian Arab people's national question.

The spokesman called on all Palestinian organizations and national forces to assume their responsibilities toward the important developments. The spokesman stressed that 'Arafat's new step has deprived him of his legitimacy to lead the PLO, because the PLO's legitimacy is represented only in the national Palestinian forces that adhere to the PNC Charter, program, and resolutions. The spokesman added: 'Arafat's step makes it necessary for all Palestinian organizations to meet immediately in order to discuss the consequences of this step and the stand to be adopted to confront these consequences.

The Palestinian spokesman concluded: By stressing the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front's adherence to the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of our people, we also stress the importance of rearranging Palestinian affairs in order to resolutely confront the designs of the U.S. Administration, the Zionist enemy, and their agents in the region. We also believe that confronting these designs can be achieved only by terminating the PLO's rightist and bourgeois leadership and preventing it from liquidating our national struggle under the claim of legitimacy.

Fatah Executive Committee

NC221847 Paris AFP in English 1837 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Tunis, Dec 22 (AFP) — The executive Committee of the Fatah, the dominant faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO), today denounced PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak as a "violation of the principle of collective leadership." "The visit of Abu Ammar (Mr 'Arafat) with President Husni Mubarak in Cairo was a personal decision, in which the Fatah's Executive Committee was neither informed nor consulted," a communique said. "This was a violation of the principle of collective leadership...which is the framework and the guarantee of the independence of Palestinian national decisions," the communique added.

Mr 'Arafat must assume full responsibility for the visit, undertaken without the support of the Fatah or the PLO, the communique added. The executive Committee promised to pursue the issue and publish a statement after further discussion and investigation.

At today's Executive Committee meeting, Mr 'Arafat, Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], the second ranking PLO leader, and Faruq Qaddumi, the head of the PLO Political Department, were absent.

The Commander of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) forces quartered in Algeria, Colonel M'hamed Jihad, earlier called Mr 'Arafat's meeting with the Egyptian president a

betrayal of the Palestinian people. "We will never permit anyone to trample on the corpses of our martyrs and dispose of the will of our people as expressed in the decisions of the Palestinian National Council and the Fatah congresses," Colonel Jihad said.

More than 1,500 PLO troops are currently quartered in Algeria, and about 500 more are expected this weekend after the 4,000 'Arafat loyalists evacuated northern Lebanon.

As-Sa'iqah, Al-Fahum

JN221900 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1810 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 22 Dec (SANA) — The Popular Liberation War Vanguards-As-Sa'iqah Forces have strongly condemned Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and his meeting with the president of the Egyptian regime, Husni Mubarak. It described this step as 'Arafat's most serious violation of the principles of Palestinian national armed struggle.

In a statement issued today, a responsible source in the organization said that by paying this visit to the Egyptian regime, 'Arafat has betrayed the trust of the Palestinian people and disavowed the blood of thousands of Palestinian martyrs who fell while defending the cause. The source urged the Palestinian masses both inside and outside the occupied land to confront and foil Yasir 'Arafat's deviant course, restore Palestinian unity to the PLO, and strenghten the Palestinian alliance with revolutionary Syria, which stands on the frontline against U.S. imperialism, Zionism, and their hostile schemes.

For his part, PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum said today that 'Arafat's visit to Cairo is a flagrant violation of PNC resolutions. Al-Fahum said that PNC resolutions reject holding any contacts or establishing any relations with the Egyptian regime until the Camp David agreements and course are canceled, because these agreements are aimed at liquidating the Palestine question. Al-Fahum concluded his statement by saying that the PLO Executive Committee is elected in order to implement the PNC resolutions in letter and spirit, and when it deviates from these resolutions it loses its popularity and legitimacy.

DFLP's Hawatimah

GF221930 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, made statement to ANA on the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting. He said: 'Arafat's meeting with Mubarak, who is still abiding by the Camp David accords, represents a total diversion from the program of the PLO and the decisions of the PNC and the leading establishments of the PLO revolution. It is also a transgression of the Arab summit resolutions to boycott the Egypt of Camp david. We totally condemn this meeting and declare that 'Arafat's step is a bloody blow to our people, revolution, the PLO, and the Arab liberation movements struggling to liberate Egypt from the chains of Camp David and the struggle of our people against the Reagan plan and the Israeli-Phalangist-Lebanese-U.S. agreement.

We refute these individual effort which are contrary to the decisions of the legal establishments of the PLO and call on all factions of the revolution and the Palestinian national forces to convene and adopt practical measures to end this behavior which contributes to the rupture of PLO unity. The protection of PLO unity now is the responsibility of the factions and the powers concerned about the unity of our people and their right to return and achieve an independent state. We will not allow individual maneuvers to destroy the revolution and fall into the trap of the Arabs of America and their condescending policy.

WAFA Commentary

JN221904 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1820 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 22 Dec (SANA) — A commentary by the Palestinian news agency, WAFA, today condemned Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and his meeting with the president of the Egyptian regime, Husni Mubarak. WAFA said that this visit crowned 'Arafat's deviant practices and violated all PNC resolutions.

WAFA's political editor said today that 'Arafat's visit overstepped all national taboos, violated the Baghdad summit resolutions, and insulted the Arab conscience, which regarded As-Sadat's ill-omened visit to occupied Jerusalem and the subsequent Camp David agreement as national treason whose perpetrators deserved the death punishment.

The political editor added that this step [words indistinct] in the Palestinian arena [words indistinct] will undoubtedly arrive at its inevitable results — namely, pursuing the national deviant course to the end, since Egypt is the main station of Camp David and its gateway toward the confederation plan with the Jordanian regime.

Nimr Salih

JN221916 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1805 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 22 Dec (SANA) — Nimr Salih, alias Abu Salih, one of the leaders of Fatah's revolutionary uprising, has condemned Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and his meeting with Egyptian officials. He stressed that this step is only one link in a long chain of deviations 'Arafat and his clique have practiced and are practicing in the name of legitimacy. In a statement here today, Abu Salih said that by this visit 'Arafat has exposed his cards and fallen forever into the lap of Camp David, a matter which robs him of the right to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people and the PLO.

The Fatah official called on the leaders of the Palestinian factions and the members of the PLO Executive Committee to hold an emergency meeting in order to study the grave consequenes of this visit, to remove 'Arafat from the PLO's leadership, and to divest him of all his responsibilities after he stepped outside of Palestinian unanimity. Abu Salih said: We will send memorandums in this regard to the Arab, Islamic, and nonaligned states asking them to discredit 'Arafat's legitimacy because of his conspiratorial role against the Palestinian question. We will also invite the factions' leaders and the Executive Committee

members who are present to an urgent emergency meeting in order to study the grave consequences of this visit.

PFLP-DFLP Joint Command

JN222034 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 22 Dec (SANA) — The joint command of the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] affirmed in a statement issued at the end of an emergency meeting here today that 'Arafat's Cairo visit and his meeting with Husni Mubarak represent a serious deviation in the rightist leadership's trend toward capitulating before the Camp David designs and abandoning the sacred national rights of the Palestinian people. The joint command also affirmed that this visit represents a flagrant violation of PNC resolutions and threatens to destroy and fragment the basis of Palestinian unity. It denounced and condemned this visit, affirming that it will confront all the serious consequences of this visit. The joint command also affirmed that it will continue consultations with the various national forces and functionaries in order to meet their responsibility in confronting this deviation in a manner that will guarantee that practical and effective measures are adopted to deter and reject this capitulatory policy and preserve the unity of the PLO and its national course.

Habash Urges 'Arafat's Dismissal

JN222028 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] PFLP Secretary General George Habash has made the following statement on 'Arafat's visit to Cairo: 'Arafat's Cairo visit is a blunt defiance and flagrant violation of the recent PNC resolutions. There is no doubt that this step places 'Arafat in the position of a serious national deviation, if not in the position of clear-cut treason.

We demand that our Palestinian masses and the PLO's institutions embark on immediate and firm action in order to stop this deviation by dismissing Yasir 'Arafat, who did not respect our masses' ambitions and aspirations and who completely ignored our national cause, the PLO Charter, and the PNC resolutions. Throughout their militant march, our people have proved they can put an end to all those who deviate from the national aims and all those who violate the national charter and the resolutions adopted by the successive PNC sessions.

The PFLP, which has been greatly concerned about Palestinian national unity and which has exerted all possible efforts to bolster and promote this unity and keep everything within the framework of this unity, stresses that it will continue to adhere to the PLO as a framework for all the Palestinian national and progressive forces that abide by its charter and PNC resolutions. The PFLP, which has been known for its clear stands and for both profound and continuous concern for Palestinian national unity, will resist this serious deviation from the national line with all the power its possesses. It is certain that its stand will be supported by our people's masses and their national and progressive forces, as well as by the friends and allies of our sacred national cause.

In light of this deviant and dangerous step, we announce to our Palestinian and Arab masses and to our friends in the world that it is no longer possible to hesitate in working for 'Arafat's immediate dismissal from his position as chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. We promise our Palestinian and Arab masses that we will continue to struggle and work for safeguarding, bolstering, and developing Palestinian national unity out of a desire to preserve the PLO, its national line, and its accomplishments and gains. We will continue to struggle and work in order to confront all those deviating from the national line, the PLO Charter, and the PNC resolutions.

Abu Mayzar

JN221949 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, official spokesman of the PLO Executive Committee and chief of the Pan-Arab Relations Department, has made a statement in which he said that 'Arafat's meeting with Husni Mubarak cannot deceive either our Palestinian people or our Arab masses about the reality of the Camp David accords and the trend, content, and results of the Egyptian-Israeli agreement. These accords and their appendices have encroached on Egypt's sovereignty, entrenched Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, and separated Egypt, with all its political and military weight as well as its historical and Pan-Arab role, from the arena of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Thus, these accords have directed a strong blow at Egypt's liberation role, at the unity of the Arab cause, and at our people's rights to return, to self-determination, and to establish their independent state on their own land. The accords also disregard the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Algiers VOP Commentary

LD230409 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Our Palestinian revolutionaries' contact with the Egyptian masses was renewed today in Port Said and later in Cairo with a long and warm embrace in the belief of the inevitability of victory and with the spontaneous and deeply fraternal authenticity of the masses. When we say the contact was renewed, we mean that brilliant encounters had taken place in the past. In nationalist Beirut, during the 3-month siege, the first sympathetic hearts to break this siege and embrace the revolutionaries when they were in the most dire need of support; in steadfast Tripoli, during the treacherous Arab siege in partnership with the siege by the Zionist enemy, amid the flames of battle and the missiles coming from Damascus and Libya pouring on every inch of our camps, the brave city and port; amid this deadly hell, the big hearts from Cairo made their way in great numbers representing various sectors of the fraternal Egyptian people.

They will always remain authentic in their Arabism and deep in their support for their Palestinian cause despite all the oppression and despite the chains that bound it. They see the Palestinian

revolution as their beacon and guide in the joint struggle to rid official Egypt of the fetters of Camp David which were imposed on it for a period of time. It has made long strides toward getting rid of them thanks to the hard-fought and well-planned struggle led by the nationalist forces and parties in sister Egypt. The struggle will be crowned with victory, God willing.

We say this when we see today a renewal of the meeting between the heroic brother revolutionaries in Egypt. It was a meeting they pledged to make before leaving Tripoli, to make the joy complete, and to renew the struggle in a new stage. In Port Said and Isma'iliyah, the meeting of brother leader Abu 'Ammar with his comrades who fought together in defense of Egypt was an emotional one. There was a brilliant popular celebration in Cairo the like of which the city had not witnessed for many years when it welcomed the brother leader, Abu 'Ammar, and his comrades, the heroes of steadfastness in Tripoli and Beirut.

The popular meeting was a sincere and effective referendum in which Egypt, the people with the big hearts, confirmed that it will remain Arab and will remain with Palestine, its people and revolutionaries. It is bigger than the pain and stronger than the fetters that had chained it. With its embrace and welcome today of the heroes of the Palestinian revolution headed by Brother Abu 'Ammar, leader of the Palestinian revolution, it confirms that it has broken free from its chains and that is growing, along with the revolution of Palestine. It confirms that the revolutionaries of Palestine together with the authentic people of Egypt and the masses of their struggling Arab nation will grow and achieve victory and that it is a revolution until victory.

AL-AHRAM Quotes 'Arafat on Future Moves

NC230904 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 23 Dec (MENA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has affirmed that Egypt is the focal point and the Arab heart without which the Arab body will die. He said that Egypt is the backbone supporting Arab unity and there are no Arabs without Egypt.

In an interview published in *AL-AHRAM* today, 'Arafat said that many events have taken place in Egypt's absence and that there is no room for any talk about Arab solidarity in Egypt's absence. In his interview which he gave to the paper upon his arrival in Port Said last night, 'Arafat said: I tell everyone that Egypt has returned to the Arabs and we will not allow any force to exclude Egypt from its Arab nation again.

Answering a question about what he is requesting from Egypt now, the Palestinian leader said: We are not asking of Egypt more than what Egypt asks for itself and for the Palestinians. Egypt is the focal point and the heart without which the whole Arab body will die.

Answering a question about the outcome of the Tripoli battle, 'Arafat said that the Tripoli experience with all the pain it carries has shown that the Palestinian people adhere to the PLO, to Palestinian legitimacy, and to their independent national decision. The Palestinian leader added: The Syrian regime, which waged the Tripoli battle to seize the PLO's destiny and independent decisionmaking, has completely failed to achieve this goal. He stressed that the Palestinian identity and the Palestinian decision cannot be influenced by any specific Arab capital; the decision rests completely with the Palestinian people.

Asked about the PLO's stand now that all confrontation points have been blocked, the Palestinian leader said: The struggle is not over. We will continue to struggle until we reach Jerusalem, the capital of our homeland Palestine. He added: The military, political, and diplomatic struggle will escalate by all means to arrive at our firm goals.

About future steps, 'Arafat said: After I am assured of the safety of my forces, a new phase of Palestinian action and struggle will begin. The Fatah command will hold meetings to discuss all dimensions and negative and positive aspects of the [Tripoli] experience. This will be followed by convening the Palestinian constitutional institutions, including the PLO Executive Committee and the PNC.

Asked whether the dissidents will be invited to attent the PNC meetings, 'Arafat said that the PNC will be invited to convene in the near future, possibly during February, before the forthcoming Arab summit meetings. He said that Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid had invited the council to convene in Algeria. We have accepted the invitation.

'Arafat added that a comprehensive reconstructuring of the PLO's institutions will be carried out in light of the Palestinian people's stance against the recent plot in Tripoli. He said: Since the inception of the Palestinian revolution in 1965, we have been pursuing a democratic system in our programs and efforts. Therefore, no one will be deprived of PNC membership, even the dissidents. I do not make this decision and no individual person makes this decision. The decision is made by representatives of the people — the PNC. Through the PNC's meetings and through our democratic institutions, a final appraisal will be made and the people, through their representatives, will have the final word.

Paris Daily Interviews PLO's Khalaf

LD221328 Kuwait KUNA in English 1043 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Paris, Dec 22 (KUNA) — The only condition set up by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to resume the dialogue with Jordan is that "these negotiations do not deal with the Reagan plan," declared a senior PLO official. In an interview with the *"QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS"* daily newspaper, released Thursday, Salah Khalaf, code-named Abu Iyad, said that negotiations between the Palestinians and the Jordanians will be based on the Arab peace plan of Fes, which calls for the creation of a Palestinian state. The Palestinian people could obtain a state and a nation with the Fes plan, while the Reagan proposal did not mention the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, he added.

The PLO official believes that a political solution to solve the Palestinian problem could not be reached in the near future, and that "not because we don't want it, but because the Israelis don't want it," he said.

"For the time being, the balance of forces is in favour of Israel," he noted adding "Considering the current balance of forces in the region, I don't believe that the U.S. are willing to bring pressure upon Israel" for a political solution to the Palestinian problem.

Abu Iyad affirme that the PLO would immediately cease its military acts if serious negotiations started in order to find a peaceful settlement to the problem.

The PLO official blamed "some Arab countries" for slowing down the course of the Palestinian revolution, "Either under American pressure, or because they neither believe in our cause nor out right."

According to him, the main problem between Syria and the PLO was the former's attempt "to take over our political decision." He indicated that Syria finally accepted to let the PLO leader, Yasir 'Arafat, leave Tripoli because they "understood that it was not easy to crush Abu 'Ammar."

Asked whether the exclusion of Egypt from the Arab world was not a mistake, Abu Iyad replied that Egypt was not excluded from the Arab world. "It is Egypt which has chosen to be out of the Arab world with the Camp David accords," he noted adding that there was (?a difference) between late President as-Sadat and his successor Husni Mubarak. "We are trying to get closer to Egypt. We know its value and its weight in the Arab world," he said.

Asked about future plans of the PLO and whether the Ahmad Jibril and As-Sa'iqah groups will be excluded of [as received] the PLO. Abu Iyad indicated that the holding of a new national council was under (?study) now. "If the council meets and fails to solve the problems we have with Syria and these pro-Syrian groups, we will, of course, have no other choice than to exclude them," he declared. "These organisations," he went on, "Are the extensions, through the PLO, of Arab regimes." As for its political activity, the PLO will maintain the options defined during the last National Council meeting in Tunis, he said.

Asked what role France could play in favour of the PLO, Abu Iyad replied that France has played a very positive role during this last crisis of the PLO. "That indicated that the French Government and the French people support our cause and we appreciate this," he said. The PLO official further added that they were expecting France to play a positive role, "Either within the European Economic Community (EEC) or at the United Nations" in support of the Palestinian cause. He underlined that the Franco-Egyptian resolution, presented at the U.N. in the summer of 1982, mentioned self-determination for the Palestinian people.

"The U.S. insists so that only her proposals are taken into account and they will veto all the projects submitted to the U.N., but this must not prevent the French Government from being with us," he said.

Questioned about the reported negotiations for a visit to France by the PLO chairman, Yasir 'Arafat, he replied that it was a long time desire of 'Arafat to visit France, but the "conditions set up by the French Government, and more particularly by Francois Mitterrand, are making it difficult to carry out that project." "Mitterrand," he went on "wants 'Arafat to make one step forward towards the recognition of Israel. It is a very delicate problem for us because that is the only trump we have."

He, nevertheless, expressed the hope that 'Arafat's desire to visit France will come true and underlined that a meeting between President Mitterrand and the PLO chairman was expected to take place when the former visited Tunis at the end of October, but 'Arafat was in Tripoli at that time.

Further Details

NC221224 Paris AFP in English 1210 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Paris, Dec 22 (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) would "immediate[ly] halt its military operations" if serious talks began on a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem, senior PLO chief Abu Iyad said in an interview published here today. However he told the *QUOTIDIEN OF PARIS*: "I don't believe in a political solution at the moment because the balance of forces is in Israel's favour," and "the Israelis do not want" such a solution.

Mr Mitterrand wanted Mr 'Arafat "to take a further step towards recognizing Israel," he said. "This is a delicate problem for us, because it (the possibility of recognizing Israel) is the only trump card we hold." Asked about a December 6 PLO bomb attack which killed four civilians on a bus in Jerusalm, Abu Iyad said: "Our orders were not to attack civilians... we are against attacks aimed at civilians... sometimes, mistakes occur."

Armed PLO actions are envisaged "only in Palestine" and a return to earlier PLO tactics such as the hijacking of airliners is "out of the question," he said.

Referring to possible diplomatic moves following the evacuation from Tripoli, Abu Iyad said the PLO was "trying to move closer to Egypt."

Al-Hasan: Conference Dates 'Sheer Speculation'

JN221529 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Tunis, 22 Dec (INA) — Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee and the person in charge of the unified Palestinian Information Department, has said that the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee will hold two meetings in Tunis next week under Yasir 'Arafat in order to adopt a final decision concerning the date and venue of the PNC conference and the Fatah general conference. In a statement to the INA correspondent in Tunis, Al-Hasan said that all the dates and places that have been announced for these two conferences are sheer speculation. He added that the Fatah Central Committee is currently holding continuous meetings in Tunis which are being attended by a number of the PLO Executive Committee members to discuss the stage that follows the Palestinian forces' evacuation from Tripoli.

Regarding Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in Tunis, Al-Hasan said that no date has yet been fixed for his arrival, and neither is his destination known. Al-Hasan said that 'Arafat during the next few days might visit San'a', Aden, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan before he arrives in Tunis.

Interview With Opposition's Sa'id Musa Muragha

GF230756 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 22 Dec 83 p 15

[Interview with Sa'id Musa Muragha, identified by nom de guarre Abu Musa, member of Fatah opposition, in al-Biqa' — date not given]

[Excerpts] *AL-KHALIJ*: I heard from Brother Abu 'Ammar that he will call for a general congress of the movement at the beginning of next year. Are you going to attend this congress?

Abu Musa: Certainly, he will not invite us to this congress, because he has adopted illegal and tyrannical measures against many of the rebelling cadres of the Fatah movement. Keep in mind that we regard such measures as illegal and confused, because neither Brother Abu 'Ammar nor anyone else has the right to expel a member from this movement. The set procedure is for an investigative committee to be formed to look into charges against a member. If the committee decides the charges are substantiated, it will relegate his case to the court. If the court also decides that the charges against a member are substantiated, it will relegate his case to the organizational organs for final judgment. This procedure has not been followed. What has taken place has been the decisions of an individual. We all know how Brother Abu 'Ammar repeatedly makes individual, illegal, and irregular decisions and makes them appear to be legal decisions. He adopted decisions against us and we believe that he cannot invite us to this congress since he considers us out of the movement. However, we say that even if we are invited, we will not attend because we abide by the solution proposed by the 18-member committee which formulated the correct solution to end the crisis in the Fatah movement. The committee assigned by the Palestinian Central Council approved a plan to resolve this crisis and made recommendations. We informed the committee of our abidance by the decision and regard it as an ideal one for the Palestinian people. However, Yasir 'Arafat rejected this plan and even condemned those who formulated it despite their being elected as members by the National Council and having been assigned by the Central Council. We say that we still abide by this program and proposition made by the 18-member committee and will continue to do so until Abu 'Ammar accepts it in order to achieve a united Fatah through whatever the committee has approved on resolving this crisis. If Yasir 'Arafat does not attend a general congress of the movement representing both sides, then by holding his own congress he will be declaring a separation and his departure from the Fatah movement. We will continue to abide by the decisions of the 18-member committee and regard ourselves as the genuine Fatah movement. He will be the one who has separated himself from the framework of the movement.

AL-KHALIJ: There is a move to hold a meeting of the Executive Committee and the secretaries general of the resistance factions after the departure of the fighters and Yasir 'Arafat from Tripoli. I perceived this move from all the leaders of the factions with whom I have met. Would you agree to attend this meeting and what stance will you propose in this meeting?

Abu Musa: Certainly the one who calls for this meeting will be the chairman of the Executive Committee. It is our belief he is prepared — and this is one of the measures he will take after his departure from Tripoli — to call for a series of Palestinian meetings. I believe there will be a call for convening the PLO Executive Committee, and although the uprising movement is not represented in the Executive Committee, the Palestinian factions are. Some of them will attend, while others will not. I have also learned that Abu 'Ammar will also call for convening the Central Council in an attempt to strengthen the legitimacy of his leadership in the Palestinian arena and in the PLO leadership. But we believe that even if these meetings are held, with full attendance or not, they will not give Yasir 'Arafat the means and legitimacy to continue his leadership of the PLO. Yasir 'Arafat's last goal will be the convening of the PNC. If Yasir 'Arafat decides to convene the PNC without or before reaching an agreement on the Fatah issue, then in the Palestinian arena, it means that he is insisting on the PLO's separation. We will not attend an Executive Committee meeting because we are not represented in it and we do not have members in the committee. The current Fatah representatives in the committee are Abu al-Lutf, Abu Mazin, and Yasir 'Arafat.

It is my belief that some Palestinian organizations such as the General Command and As-Sa'iqah, which are represented in the Executive Committee, will not attend this meeting. There might be more participation in the Central Council because there are independent representatives among the members. It will be the PNC that will settle the matter in the end because the Central Council does not have executive authority since it is more consultative than decisive. If the PNC is convened before an agreement within Fatah and in the Palestinian arena is reached, it will be an open invitation for Palestinian division in the Palestinian arena, and this means the inauguration of two liberation organizations. We say we are opposed to the council being convened at this time. We have repeatedly called for finding a solution to the political issues in the Palestinian arena before holding any general meeting, because such a meeting will cause a division in Palestinian ranks and create two organizations. This is something everyone is concerned about. All should express their concern with sincere efforts. We call on all those who desire the unity of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian arena to look for a solution before we reach a division. The PLO is one of the achievements of the Palestinian people and we should safeguard it will all our capabilities. We should not weaken the PLO, either in the Arab arena or in the international arena.

AL-KHALIJ: Having put things so clearly, how do you, within Fatah, see the solution of the crisis?

Abu Musa: We believe Yasir 'Arafat is not the interlucutor for the Palestinian forces within the PLO because the PLO is a front which combines all Palestinian forces. 'Arafat has fought against more than one Palestinian organization. Blood has been shed by Yasir 'Arafat. We believe Yasir 'Arafat is not qualified to lead the Palestinian people and the PLO and that he should give up this position and thus allow other Palestinian organizations and forces to find a way out of this impasse which Yasir 'Arafat has

brought us all to. Then the PLO and its leadership, the PNC, and the political and organizational programs can be reorganized to bring the Palestinian struggle back to its bases and its correct line by continuing the struggle and fight against the usurping enemy.

AL-KHALIJ: You say you are now the overwhelming majority in Syria and Lebanon among Fatah ranks. However, you are not the majority among the Palestinian masses where Fatah's presence is felt and on the Arab level where Palestine presence is felt or even on the international level where Palestinians are.

Abu Musa: We represent the militant Fatah movement. Fatah is not a political feature only, but a struggle, a confrontation, and a translation of this political action or program in practice in confronting the enemy. We say we represent the real Fatah because we are carrying the guns and fighting the enemy. Those who claim to be Fatah in exile in the Arab countries do not represent Fatah. Fatah is not an organ for distributing fighters in Arab countries or an organ in exile in Arab countries. Fatah is a freedom movement based on the gun confronting the Zionist enemy who is occupying our land and southern Lebanon. That is why we appear not to have any political influence owtside of this region competing against Yasir 'Arafat. This is not the fact. We have political and organizational influence in all Arab countries and in many Western and other foreign countries. This influence is not visible because we believe that many of these regimes would be hostile to us and would harm those who belong to our organization if they felt our political and organizational influence. That is why we do not make announcements frankly and openly, because we are waiting the right moment when we can announce our organization. Besides, Yasir 'Arafat has alliances with reactionary and imperialist forces which employ all their media organs to serve the policy and line of Yasir 'Arafat's movement in a way that would show the public that Yasir 'Arafat has uncontested control in the Arab and foreign countries. However, the fact is not what it seems to be. We say that after his exit from Tripoli, Yasir 'Arafat will not make any political moves in confronting the U.S. plot but will move in the direction of facilitating this plot in the Arab region. In other words, Yasir 'Arafat will have the choice of responding to three plans: the first, from King Fahd; the second, from King Husayn; and the third one, from Husni Mubarak. These are the limits of his next political moves: either in the direction of Jordan and confederation with it, or in the direction of Mubarak and Camp David. At that time, Arab and Palestinian public opinion will see that 'Arafat's policy and line are very destructive to the Palestinian cause. This policy will relinquish the national rights and Palestinian struggle.

Fatah Fighters Arrive in Amman From Cyprus

JN221743 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Amman, 22 Dec (SUNA) — A group of 25 Palestinian fighters in the Fatah movement, who were evacuated from Tripoli, arrived in Amman from Cyprus today. The Palestinian fighters affirmed their confidence in the PLO's legitimate leadership. They also affirmed their determination to continue the struggle until victory. Another 50 fighters are expected to arrive in the Jordanian capital tomorrow.

Sources Cited on PLO-Israel Prisoner Exchange

JN231116 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Dec 83 p 20

[Text] Amma — Palestinian sources in Amman stated yesterday that the second stage of the prisoner exchange operation between the PLO and the Zionist enemy depends on the completion of the first stage. This means the release of struggler Ziyad Abu 'Ayn and 20 other detainees from the Ansar camp in southern Lebanon.

Two members in the Palestinian negotiating delegation said that if the first stage of the operation is completed as had been agreed then the second stage will be implemented.

They added that the Zionist enemy is seeking clarifications about the bodies of some of its dead soldiers and those missing. They added: We shall provide the required clarifications at the appropriate time but in exchange for this, we want a clear answer on the completion of the first stage. They added that they recently met in Algiers with the detainees who had been released to become acquainted with the weak points and loopholes in order to avoid them in the second stage. They also stressed that constant contacts are being held with the International Committee of the Red Cross to complete the first stage of the exchange operation and that there are contacts within the Palestinian arena to proceed along the previous course.

In the second stage, the PLO is asking for the release of more than 1,200 prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons. Priority must be given to women, sick people, and those who have been sentenced to long terms in prison.

BAHRAIN

Prime Minister Departs for Visit to Europe

GF221620 Doha QNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Manama, 22 Dec (QNA) — Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al-Khalifah left for Europe today. He was seen off by Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al-Khalifah.

WAKH described the prime minister's visit as private and did not say how long it would last.

Indian President Departs; Communique Issued

GF222000 Manama WAKH in English 1620 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Manama, 22 Dec (WAKH) — Indian President Giani Zail Singh left here today after a three-day official visit to Bahrain.

The Indian president was seen off by the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al-Khalifah; Bahrain Crown Prince and Commander in Chief of Defence Force Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah and other officials.

The Indian president held talks with the amir of Bahrain on bilateral relations and means of promoting them in economic and trade fields.

The discussions also covered current Gulf, Arab and international developments and issues of mutual interest.

A press communique, issued at the end of the visit, said that the two countries expressed grave concern over the situation in the Middle East. They agreed that it is a source of grave danger to the peace and stability of the region.

The communique called for an immediate withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied by Israel since June 1967.

The two sides agreed that no solution to this problem can be attained without the full participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization as equal partner in any negotiations. A just and lasting solution to the problem should take into account the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and should enable the Palestinians to return to their homeland and establish an independent state in Palestine, the communique said.

The communique said that the Indian president and the amir of Bahrain expressed deep concern and distress at the Iraq-Iran war. A prolongation of the present conflict is having grave implications for both regional and global peace and security, it added. They hoped that Iran and Iraq would resolve their differences through negotiations and in accordance with the principles of the non-aligned movement.

They expressed their grave concern over the increasing escalation of great-power military presence in the Indian Ocean area despite the expressed wishes of the littoral and hinterland states of the Indian Ocean. They stressed the need for intensifying efforts for the speedly implementation of the declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, as contained in the U N General Assembly resolution issued in 1971.

The two sides stressed the necessity of disarmament and diversion of resources spent on areas for developmental activities, the communique said.

This would benefit all mankind.

The Indian president and the amir of Bahrain re-affirmed their faith in the non-aligned policy, it added. They pointed out that the non-aligned movement represents the hopes and aspirations of the majority of mankind and has become an independent and positive force for world [words indistinct] and stressing the common bonds which unite the non-aligned countries enables the movement to continue to adhere to a common strategy and consensus which would reflect the real essence of non-alignment, the communique said.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ on 'Arafat's Visit to Cairo

GF231010 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0714 GMT 23 Dec 83

[From press review]

[Excerpt] Manama, 23 Dec (WAKH) — In its editorial today, the Bahraini newspaper *AKHBAR Al-KHALIJ* said the surprising visit which Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat made constitutes a great opportunity for consolidating the Palestinian cause and enhancing its cohesion if it focuses on the positive effect and eliminate minor ones. The paper continued: When the Arab countries adopted the decision to boycot Egypt, they did not base it on a firm and united strategy against Israel, and this lead to Egypt's alienation without any strategy to fill the vacuum which resulted from this alienation.

AKHBAR Al-KHALIJ said this visit will probably have many positive effects if it is treated impassionately because it will pave the road for Egypt's return, which has become inevitable because of the homeland's need for Egypt.

Concluding its editorial, the newspaper expressed the hope that Egypt will honor the promise it made to this nation which aims at struggle and sacrifice and that it will respond to this courageous initiative with more courageous initiatives to confirm that the Camp David accord is no more than sheets of paper which cannot separate Egypt from its nation which has suffered much during its absence.

KUWAIT

Iranian Envoy Meets Foreign Ministry Official

GF221714 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait 'Ali Shams Ardakani today met with the under secretary of the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry and protested the illegal arrests of Iranian residents in Kuwait and the break-in at the residence of one of the Iranian

diplomats at the Iranian Embassy by Kuwaiti police. The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry under secretary regretted this aggression and said: This was a mistake made by our men. He promised to exert his efforts to protect the rights of Iranian residents in Kuwait.

PDRY

Chairman Receives DFLP's Nayif Hawatimah

GF221936 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received today Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]. Struggle relations between the YSP and the DFLP were reviewed within the framework of the joint struggle against imperialism and Zionism in addition to the situation in the Palestinian arena and the threats that the Palestinian revolution is confronting as well as their possible repercussions on the future of Palestinian national work.

A discussion was held on the current Arab and international situation, the increase of the direct hostile conspiracies of U.S. imperialism against the Palestinian and Lebanese people and (?fraternal) Syria, the new threats resulting from the U.S.-Zionist strategic alliance in the region, and the attempts by U.S. imperialism to establish a base for the Rapid Deployment Force in the Arabian Sea in order to threat the region, and particularly the PDRY, as a new chapter of the imperialist plot in the Middle East.

The brother secretary general reaffirmed the PDRY's support for the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO and noted the importance of the unity of the Palestinian revolution's structure to overcome the fiercest threats and conspiracies against it.

DFLP Official Abu Adham Departs 22 Dec

GF221940 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Brother Abu Adham, member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], left Aden today after a visit of several days to our country.

Chairman Meets With Bulgarian CP Official

GF221932 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received today Comrade Balev, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee. During the meeting he conveyed a verbal message from Comrade Todor Zhivkov, secretary general of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Bulgarian State Council, dealing with friendship and cooperation between the two parties and countries and the dimensions of their developments and a number of issues of mutual interest.

The brother secretary general expressed satisfaction at the level of relations between the two friendly parties and countries. Comrade Balev expressed joy over his visit to the PDRY and becoming acquainted with the revolutionary experience and his meetings with a number of government officials. He affirmed that Yemeni-Bulgarian relations reflect the joint targets for which the YSP and Bulgarian Communist Party are struggling and that the coming years will witness further strengthening of those relations in light of the friendship and cooperation agreement between the two friendly countries.

The meeting was attended by Brother Sulayman Nasir Muhammad, member of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the national leadership of the People's Defense Committees, and Comrade Dimo Khristov Kamburov, Bulgarian ambassador to Aden. The Bulgarian party delegation led by Comrade Balev left Aden today after concluding its visit to the PDRY.

SAUDI ARABIA

Sa'ud on Lebanon, U.S., Soviet Roles

LD222142 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Excerpts] The foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, has stated that what the Kingdom is doing in the service of various Arab issues is an extension of what it has been concerned about throughout its history. In a statement to the *AL-MAJALLAH* journal to be published the day after tomorrow, his highness said that the Kingdom is dealing with all of the Arab nation's issues on a clear and definite basis, for the Arab interest is one interest. Arab conflicts are the greatest threat faced by the Arab nation.

His Highness remarked on the Multinational Force in Lebanon and warned against extending its role. He stressed that the presence of these forces hinges mainly on the conviction of the Lebanese that the forces are in their country to keep peace. If these forces enter any internal conflict, they will lose not only their credibility but the main pillar for their presence — Lebanese agreement to their presence in their country.

Regarding the situation in the Middle East and the U.S. stance toward it, his highness said that the imbalance in the Middle East was a result of Israel's finding absolute support from the United States, which makes it feel that it can do whatever it wants in the region. If the United States continues to pursue this pro-Israel policy, contradictions will persist in the Middle East. His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal urged the United States to be just and consistent in its policy toward the Middle East, stressing that the United States, in view of its status as a big power, has duties toward the region, which has been suffering from instability for so long.

Regarding the Soviet Union's role in the Middle East, his highness said: The nonexistence of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom and the Soviet Union at present does not mean that we will nulify its role in our assessment of matters. He added that the Soviet Union is a big power having weight and presence in the world, and we understand and appreciate many of its decisions and supportive stances on the Arab issue, especially the Palestinian issue. His highness remarked that the nonexistence of relations does not mean that contacts between the two sides at various levels do not exist. Remarking on the occupation of Afghanistan by Soviet forces, he said that the Soviet Union should abandon its present policy toward the Muslim people in Afghanistan if it wants to strengthen realtions with Arab and Islamic countries.

High highness also pointed out the importance of Arab solidarity in dealing with the big powers. He said that, given Arab solidarity, we can deal with the big powers in an effective way that will serve our interests.

Riyadh Commentary on U.S. Support for Israel

LD222301 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Dec 83

[News and comment by Husayn al-'Askari]

[Text] The UN secretary general has suggested that the Multinational Force in Beirut be replaced by a UN peace-keeping force as the best way to safeguard peace not only in Lebanon but throughout the Middle East.

Since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the enemy has been trying to impose its will on developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict through political and military pressure on events in order to exploit their results in its interest. Regrettably, the enemy was able to score points in its favor, perhaps due to factors which helped change these points into substantive gains in the hands of the enemy, including the current state of relations between the Arab countries themselves, a state in which the main element is differences in views and stances — until recently, when Arabs realized the danger of continuing this. Meetings and agreements quickly corrected the path, but only after the enemy was able to exploit the differences in a way that must be taken into account.

The enemy is fully aware that agreement within the Arab nation would be a great loss to it and all its plans. On the basis of this realization came Israeli pressure to bind the U.S. stance on the Arab-Israeli conflict to Israel's side; thus, the signing of the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement, which serves as a major obstacle to the formulation of a just and lasting peace since the new U.S. stance will cost Washington its role of mediator and turn it into a partner in the conflict. This has increased and is still increasing the danger of exacerbating developments that the future holds in store under the shadow of inflexibility on both sides which could lead to a more dangerous situation.

The UN secretary general's suggestion to replace the Multinational Force in Beirut — which is made up of four countries, the United States, Britain, France, and Italy — with UN forces comes in anticipation of the dangers of the developments which could result if the Multinational Force pursues a role that it was not required to pursue in the first place, such as the role played by the U.S. force now taking part in the fighting between the disputing parties by shelling the positions of the warring Lebanese parties, a matter which has come to constitute a new element whose significane and repurcussions cannot be underestimated in a situation which calls for the fire to be extinguished and not fanned further.

UAE

AL-KHALIJ Criticizes 'Arafat's Cairo Visit

GF231024 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0630 GMT 23 Dec 83

[From press review]

[Excerpts] Ash-Shariqah, 23 Dec (WAM) — In its editorial today, the newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* criticized PLO Executive Committee leader Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo yesterday and his meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The one who went to Cairo yesterday is the very same Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestinian commando, who fought Israel and the United States with him bare chest in the occupied territories and with his personal arms behind the enemy's lines, the paper said.

AL-KHALIJ continued: In the logic of Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo yesterday and his meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, former Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat becomes right and the Arab nation, including the Egyptian national movement and people, are wrong. The Arabs are viewed as merely playing with their fate when they met in Baghdad 4 years ago to condemn Camp David. Similarly, the PNC meetings which took place in Damascus and Algiers become a flouting of people and a mere comedy.

Concluding, *AL-KHALIJ* said: No Arab — and Arabism is not a passport or a document — will accept 'Arafat, the Palestinian symbol, becoming the Trojan horse for the United States and its plots.

YAR

Foreign Minister Meets SFRY Counterpart

GF230928 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] San'a', 22 Dec (WAKH) — Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, YAR foreign affairs minister, has met with Lazar Mojsov, Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign affairs, who arrived in San'a' earlier today. San'a' radio reported this evening that the YAR and Yugoslav sides reviewed international issues of common interest and exchanged views on the developments in the Arab region, particularly Palestinian developments and plots aimed at undermining the PLO's unity and independence. The two sides also discussed the role of the Nonaligned Movement in the current Middle East situation and the international situation in general, particularly in international detente and the North-South dialogue.

More on 'Arafat Visit, Domestic Reaction

Meets Prime Minister

NC221213 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1203 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Ismailia, 22 Dec (MENA) — Mashhur Ahmad Mashhur, director of the Suez Canal Authority, acting on behalf of the authority's workers, presented the authority's key and shield as well as a floral bouquet to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Meanwhile, Ismailia's Governor 'Abd al-Mun'im 'Imarah presented the governorate's shield to 'Arafat. This took place during 'Arafat's meeting this morning with Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din.

'Arafat, Ghali to Suez

NC221455 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1428 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo at 1545 today for the Port of Suez to board a ship with his forces bound for the Al-Hudaydah Port in the YAR. 'Arafat, accompanied by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, boarded a helicopter at the Republican Palace in Al-Qubbuah for Suez. 'Arafat is scheduled to leave the Port of Suez today at 1730 today.

'Arafat Arrival Statement

NC221733 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1721 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Suez, 22 Dec (MENA) — Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, accompanied by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Suez from Cairo this afternoon. 'Arafat was received at Bur Tawfiq Airport by Suez Governor Bakir Muhammad Bakir, Assistant Interior Minister Major General Shawqi Mansi, 3d Army Commander Major General Hasan az-Zayyat, and members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council. In an arrival statement, 'Arafat said: I recall the days I spent with the Suez strugglers, and today I can still see the good and struggling faces which inflicted the gravest losses on the Israeli enemy in all the wars, and particularly the 1973 October war. On behalf of the Arab strugglers, I wish to express my thanks to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak for the efforts he has been exerting in favor of the Palestinian cause.

Bakir Muhammad Bakir presented the Palestinian leader with the shield and flag of the Governorate of Suez. He said: I am pleased and honored to present the shield and flag as a gift from the people of Suez to the Palestinian people. The steadfast and heroic people of Suez understand the meaning of struggle and heroism in defense of the land and honor. The governor said the Suez flag, which remains aloft on the two banks of the Canal, is hereby presented to the Palestinian people. Nazmi Zayid then presented a holy Koran from the governorate's popular councils to the Palestinian people represented by the PLO chairman.

Yasir 'Arafat followed this with a speech, saying: You have given me dear things — the holy book, and the shield and flag of Suez. So many treacherous forces tried to destroy this flag in the past but failed, thanks to the struggle of the people of Suez. I do recall the Israeli tanks which were destroyed by the people of Suez during the glorious October 1973 war. What soothes the wounds of battle is the honorable position the people of Suez and Egypt and President Husni Mubarak himself are adopting.

Immediately afterward, 'Arafat and Bakir Muhammad Bakir boarded the launches of the Suez Authority amidst naval demonstrations and headed toward the Greek ship *Odhisseas Elitis*. 'Arafat later boarded the Greek ship to join the rest of the Palestinian fighters.

Press Hails Meeting

NC230932 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 23 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* displays interest in shedding light on the surprise news agencies expressed yesterday because Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat had chosen Egypt as the first place on earth on which to descend following the second Palestinian exodus from Lebanon. The paper emphasizes that 'Arafat's presence in Cairo is the rule, while his estrangement from, and boycott of Cairo, is an abnormal exception to the rule. *AL-JUMURIYAH* also asserts that there is no room for this surprise over 'Arafat's return to Egypt because, in fact, the return signifies the Palestinian cause's return to the bastion that had adopted and defended it. The Palestinian cause will continue to be our number one cause — without us forsaking or making concessions over this cause — until the Palestinian people obtain their full rights to their territory, homeland, and future. *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says in conclusion: Thanks to its prestige and history, Egypt is capable of making wider moves for the Palestinian issue and propelling it forward in the international arena, thereby allowing the issue to remain a hot and revolutionary one, and so that it will become possible to crystallize the gains achieved by the Palestinian revolution in the past decade, while avoiding all the mistakes in which all the Arab parties, without exception, had fallen. The reason is that the coming period will no longer tolerate mistakes and inter-Arab disputes.

Dealing with the same subject, *AL-AHRAM* says: 'Arafat's arrival in Egypt has not come from a vacuum, nor has his passage through Egypt and meeting with President Mubarak and the Egyptian people and their leaderships been the consequence of an instantaneous decision or an expression of gratitude because Egypt has sheltered wounded Palestinians. On the contrary, this presence is a spontaneous expression of a continuous meeting, notwithstanding the fact that this meeting had witnessed some interruptions under specific circumstances. Furthermore, this presence has crowned a joint and reciprocal feeling on the importance of Egypt for the Palestinian issue, and the importance of the Palestinian issue for Egypt. The paper adds: The period of estrangement imposed on the Palestinian leadership due to coercive and external reasons has never weakened Egypt's resolve to complete its march toward the achievement of Palestinian rights. This is because Egypt has never been shaken in its stance on the justness of the Palestinian cause; Egypt has not been affected by the changes in the attitude of numerous quarters

toward it; and Egypt has not changed its course, backed away from its principles, or withdrawn into its own shell. Egypt has continued to exert strenuous efforts to put the Palestinians at the beginning of the path of righteousness and justice, without at the same time having claimed a representative role for itself to which it is not entitled, nor a mandate which, naturally, belongs to those legitimately entitled to this cause. *AL-AHRAM* says in conclusion: May the legitimate Palestinian leadership derive help and support from Egypt in continuing with the peaceful political struggle to achieve its major objectives, particularly as recent events have fully enabled the Palestinian leadership to discern beyond any doubt who are its friends and foes.

'Ali at UN Says 'Arafat Urged To Contact Jordan

NC230647 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that Egypt seeks to convince Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat of embarking on the path of negotiations with Jordan to achieve a solution for the Palestinian issue through political means. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister at the United Nations yesterday denied Israeli charges that 'Arafat's talks yesterday with President Husni Mubarak represent a serious setback to Middle East peace efforts. Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali expressed his surprise over the negative Israeli reaction to 'Arafat's meeting with President Mubarak. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister held talks last night with Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, at Perez de Cuellar's headquarters in New York prior to Mr 'Ali's departure for Cairo. The Arab League observer at the United Nations stated that the meeting between President Mubarak and 'Arafat does not conflict with Arab League decisions. He expressed his belief that Egypt's political stance at the past UN General Assembly session has developed in a positive manner. A U.S. White House spokesman had announced earlier last night that the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting is regarded an encouraging development for Middle East peace efforts.

Revive Egyptian-French Initiative

NC230446 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] United Nations, 23 Dec (MENA) — Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, last night made a statement following his meeting with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Mr 'Ali said that their discussions dealt with a number of international topics related to the Middle East and Africa. He explained that these discussions also dealt with the Egyptian-French Middle East peace initiative, expressing his belief that this initiative needs to be revived.

Mr 'Ali added that yesterday's visit to Cairo by Mr Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, is regarded an encouraging development. In this connection, Mr 'Ali noted that Mr 'Arafat expressed his determination to negotiate with King Husayn of Jordan and continue to exert efforts along the path of peace. Mr 'Ali said that Egypt had called on the United States to take the initiative in holding a dialogue with the Palestinians.

Shukri Lauds Mubarak Stance on U.S.-Israel Accord

NC221902 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1833 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA) — The second general congress of the Socialist Labor Party began its work today at the conference hall of the Agricultural Development and Insurance Bank. Party leader Engineer Ibrahim Shukri delivered a statement dealing with the party's position toward the U.S.-Israeli agreement. He reiterated his party's support for the statements President Mubarak made when he described the agreement a catastrophe — if, in fact, it is the way reported by the U.S. and Israeli press. He affirmed that the Labor Party has issued a statement also describing the agreement a catastrophe to the Arab nation and Palestinian issue. Eng Ibrahim Shukri said Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din's meeting with Yasir 'Arafat represents Egypt's adherence to the Palestinian issue and PLO.

The Labor Party leader said the Iraqi-Iranian war has been exploited by the enemies of the Arab nation, stressing that strenuous efforts must be made to stop it. Eng Ibrahim Shukri said the Arab issues can only be tackled through Arab unity, pointing out that the atmosphere has now become suitable for the return of Egypt to the Arab ranks.

SFRY's Mojsov Departs for San'a', Praises Talks

NC221206 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA) — Lazar Mojsov, Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign affairs, left Cairo this afternoon for San'a' following a 4-day visit to Egypt. During the visit he was received by President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, and also held talks with Ahmad 'Izz ad-Din Hilal, deputy prime minister and minister of petroleum, and with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Prior to his departure, the Yugoslav secretary praised the results of his talks, saying that the talks will pave the way for bolstering bilateral relations in various areas. Mojsov pointed out that the Egyptian-Yugoslav committee will meet next January in Belgrade to formulate agreements consolidating Egyptian-Yugoslav cooperation in various areas. Mojsov said the Yugoslav defense minister will visit Egypt in mid-January to hold talks with officials on bilateral relations. The Yugoslav secretary also noted that President Mubarak has invited the Yugoslav president to visit Cairo, saying that this visit will take place next year. Mojsov added that the nonaligned countries should work for the achievement of a comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis and restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Mubarak Phones Hassan II on Death of 'Abdallah

NC221824 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today phoned King Hassan II of Morocco and conveyed condolences on the death of his brother, Prince 'Abdallah.

Iranian Rescue Ship Destroyed in Khowr-e Musa

JN230827 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Dec (INA) — It was announced here today that an Iranian rescue ship and another naval target were destroyed. In a statement to INA, an Iraqi military spokesman said that last night, the Iranian enemy tried to rescue naval targets which were hit by Iraqi fighter aircraft and naval units yesterday morning in the Khowr-e Musa area northeast of the Arab Gulf. The spokesman explained that for this purpose, the enemy sent a rescue ship and several naval units. The Iraqi naval forces fiercely and strongly attacked and destroyed the ship and another damaged naval target which the ship had tried to rescue. The spokesman added that the other naval targets fled. The spokesman also said that the rescue ship and the other naval target were set on fire from all sides and were swallowed by the Arab Gulf. He added that all the Iraqi naval units which carried out this successful strike returned safely to base. Iraqi naval units yesterday destroyed two Iranian naval targets and hit another in the Khowr-e Musa area, northeast of the Arab Gulf. The following is the text of the military spokesman's statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In the wake of the daring and successful blow dealt by the able aircraft of our Air Force and our courageous naval units against enemy naval targets which were discovered in the Khowr-e Musa area, northeast of the Arab Gulf as mentioned in the Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,318 and the statement of the military spokesman yesterday on the destruction of two naval tartets and the hitting of a third target, last night the enemy tried to rescue what remained of its damaged and destroyed targets by using a rescue ship and several enemy targets. Our courageous naval forces confronted them and dealt them strong and effective blows. They succeeded in destroying the enemy rescue ship and the other damaged naval target which it was trying to rescue. The other enemy targets fled, humiliated and defeated, leaving behind the destroyed rescue ship and the other naval target in flames. They were swallowed up by the Arab Gulf waters. After completing their mission with accuracy, predominance, and success, all our able naval units returned safely to base, praise be to God. God is great, victory to our great Iraq and to our glorious Arab nation, and shame and ignominy to the clique of evil and aggression which is ruling Iran. It is God who grants success. 23 December 1983

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,318

JN221754 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,318 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 22 December 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With relentless determination and absolute confidence in scoring victory over the greedy enemies, our heroic Armed Forces are continuing their ground, air, and sea activities against the vicious Iranian enemy forces. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Several enemy naval targets were detected this morning in the Khowr-e Musa area in the northeastern part of the Arab Gulf while they were leaving Bandar-e Khomeyni. Our capable air force aircraft and bold naval units intercepted them, dealt them strong and effective blows, and managed to destroy two targets. The rest of the enemy naval targets fled the area, leaving the two destroyed targets in flames; they were swallowed up by the Arab Gulf waters.

Another enemy naval target in the same area tried to enter Bandar-e Khomeyni. Our fighter planes and naval units attacked it and managed to hit it. The enemy failed in all of its attempts to rescue the targets that were hit and destroyed. All of our fighter planes and naval units returned safely to base, praise be to God.

We repeat our warnings not to approach or enter the prohibited zone in the Arab Gulf as defined in the Armed Forces General Command's previous communiques and the military spokesman's previous statements.

2. One of our forward units sighted an enemy observation post and several enemy troops opposite our positions in the northern sector of the battlefield. It opened artillery fire on them and attacked them with two helicopter gunships, destroying the enemy observation post and killing 15 enemy troops. Elsewhere in the same sector, our forward untis fired on enemy concentrations opposite our positions, killing nine enemy troops and destroying one mortar and one observation post.

3. Our forward units fired on an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing one and destroying one infantry position and one observation post.

4. One was killed and one hardware stockpile was destroyed east of Basra.

5. One was killed in the Maysan sector.

6. The criminal Khomeyniite clique shelled Basra and Mandali and their environs with heavy artillery today. The savage enemy shelling led to the martyrdom of one civilian, the injury of nine others, and the destruction of one house in Basra.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 December 1983

Minister 'Ulwan Interviewed on Arab Affairs

PM221424 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Dec 83 p 3

[Unattributed interview with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hamid 'Ulwan — date, place not given]

[Excerpt] Question: The Islamic foreign ministers' conference has raised the issue of Egypt's membership. How does Iraq view this matter?

Answer: As you know, the question of Egypt is a matter for all the Arabs to consider. It does not depend on any particular state,

either Iraq or any other. We hope that the Arabs will have the opportunity to study this issue with a view to responding to the new developments in Egypt and the Arab world. We hope that there will be some understanding of the new situation and political changes in Egypt.

Question: Does this apply to the matter of Egypt's return to the Arab League?

Answer: That is up to the Arab summit conference. The decision to freeze Egypt's membership was taken at an Arab summit conference; therefore it is up to the Arab summit conference to settle this issue.

Question: How does Iraq feel about the recent Palestinian developments; and what is its attitude to the legitimate Palestinian leadership?

Answer: Iraq has, not only now but from the very beginning, supported the PLO and its legitimate leadership. That is why we condemn any interference with Palestinian decisionmaking, especially military interference such as in Tripoli, which we consider a serious precedent which will have grave consequences for the Arab future.

Question: In the event of aggression against Syria, what would Iraq's attitude be?

Answer: Iraq would support not only Syria but any other Arab country, regardless of the state of Iraq's relations with that country. If Syria in particular is attacked, we will be the first to defend Arab territory and Arab sovereignty. It is very regrettable that Syria has played a major part in preventing Iraq from making its contribution in such cases.

Question: Do you believe that there are now fewer obstacles in the way of an Arab summit conference at this stage? What is Iraq's position on the question of holding an Arab conference now?

Answer: We in Iraq believe that the present circumstances are the most suitable for an Arab summit conference. An Arab summit conference must be held, and it must pass resolutions which should at least contribute to a settlement of the various crises afflicting the Arab nation at present. What the PLO is going through in Tripoli is in itself sufficient reason for holding an Arab summit conference. The continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war is in itself sufficient reason for holding such a conference. It is most regrettable that two states do not share this view. This matter should naturally be examined, because it is inconceivable and unacceptable that one or two Arab states should be able to impede joint Arab action. This matter should be looked into.

Question: How do you view your relations with the Gulf states, and how do you assess the part Saudi Arabia is playing, especially in clearing the Arab atmosphere?

Answer: Our relations are good and positive, thank God. They are relations of amity and fraternity, which is very natural. We are very satisfied with our relations with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States. As for our assessment of the Saudi role, we appreciate it very much and we hope that the Saudi brothers will achieve positive results in the interest of the Palestinian and Arab causes.

Question: How would you describe your relations with France, particularly since the delivery of the advanced French Super Etendard aircraft to Iraq?

Answer: Iraqi-French relations are now strategic relations. There is no other way to describe them.

Higher Education Minister Dismissed 22 Dec
JN221820 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Dec (INA) — A republican decree issued tonight relieves Dr 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Hashimi, minister of higher education and scientific research, of his duties. Another decreee was issued appointing 'Abd al-Qadir 'Izz ad-Din, minister of education, as acting minister of higher education and scientific research in addition to his present position.

Youth Minister Leaves for Romania 22 Dec
JN221144 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Dec (INA) — Iraqi Youth Minister Ahmad Husayn left Bag'dad for Bucharest this morning at the head of an Iraqi delegation on a visit to Romania. In a statement to INA, Ahmad Husayn said that the delegation will hold talks on bilateral cooperation in the sphere of youth and sports. The delegation will conclude an agreement and sign a protocol organizing this cooperation and organizing visits by sports experts from the two countries.

Romania's Ion Nicolae Leaves Baghdad 23 Dec
JN231000 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Dec (INA) — Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Ion Nicolae left Baghdad this morning at the end of a 5-day visit to Iraq. During this visit, the Romanian official delivered a written message to President Saddam Husayn from Romanian President Ceausescu and held talks with Iraqi officials on ways to promote economic and trade relations between the two countries. In a statement to INA, Ion Nicolae stressed his country's desire to promote cooperation with Iraq from the premise of a comprehensive concept that will govern relations between the two countries.

Amman Reports on 'Arafat's Cairo Visit

JN222004 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo — Following a meeting in Cairo today with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said that he and 'Arafat had exchanged viewpoints on various matters related to the Palestinian question. President Mubarak said Egypt will not hesitate to use all of its capabilities to support the Palestinian question. The Egyptian president said: The Egyptian fleet and Air Force escorted the ships carrying the Palestinian fighters even before they arrived in Egyptian territorial waters.

'Arafat thanked President Mubarak for his stand toward the Palestinians. He said Egypt has always been a real support for the Palestinian people.

In a statement to journalists, 'Arafat expressed satisfaction with Egyptian-Palestinian relations. He said: Arab unity is necessary during these times in order to confront our enemies. He also thanked France and the United Nations for their assistance in guaranteeing the Palestinian fighters' security during their departure from Tripoli and until their arrival at their destination.

'Arafat added: The PLO sees that the basic road to Palestine is Arab unity. The PLO, in accordance with the UN resolutions, has the right to use all necessary means to confront the Israeli occupation.

'Arafat has left for Suez, where he and the Palestinian fighters will depart for the YAR. A Palestinian source in Tunis said today that the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee will hold a series of meetings after 'Arafat's arrival in Tunis to comprehensively assess the stand in the Palestinian arena.

Hasan Receives Egyptian Economy Minister

JN221242 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received in his office this morning Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id, Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade. During the meeting, views were exchanged on various issues and relations of cooperation between the two countries in the economic and trade fields. The meeting was attended by Walid 'Asfur, minister of trade and industry, and Nabil Badr, chief of the Egyptian interests section in Amman.

As-Sa'id on Mubarak Message

JN221145 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Dec 83 pp 1, 23

[Tawfiq al'Abd's dispatch]

[Excerpts] Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id, Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade, has said that he brings a message from his Brother His Excellency President Husni Mubarak to His Majesty King Husayn and that he will also deliver the message to His Highness Prince Hasan, the regent, this morning. In a special statement to *AD-DUSTUR*, As-Sa'id said that this is not the first message of this kind; His Majesty King Husayn and President Husni Mubarak continuously exchange messages. Dr as-Sa'id explained that his visit to Jordan falls within Egyptian moves aimed at returning Egyptian-Arab relations to a normal level in order to serve mutual interests with the Arab countries, and especially Jordan.

Dr as-Sa'id said: Moves and meetings have taken place between officials from both countries [Jordan and Egypt] at the economic and political levels. My current visit is one step on that path, while areas of economic cooperation between our two countries are many.

As-Sa'id added: We are discussing with Jordanian officials the expansion of trade and are identifying any obstacles in order to eliminate them. We are also discussing financial affairs, the banking sector in both countries, the conditions of Egyptian workers and investments, and strengthening bilateral communications, especially transportation through the cities of Suez, Al-Nuwaybi', and Aqaba. He said the discussions are revolving around the establishment of joint projects between Egyptian and Jordanian businessmen, establishing a joint transport company to serve Al-Juwaybi' and Aqaba in order to link Egypt with all Arab countries — especially those east of Jordan — and to fulfill the dream of those who have always believed in Arab solidarity and fraternity — the dream related to finding a passage that will facilitate transport between the Gulf and the Arab Maghreb.

Regarding the 1978 Egyptian-Jordanian economic agreement, Dr as-Sa'id said: The agreement has not been annulled or stopped. We have not been officially informed that it is no longer in force, thus it still exists. Our brothers in Jordan agree with us on this matter.

Dr as-Sa'id asserted that economic relations continue to exist with Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, YAR, and the Arab Gulf countries, and that Egyptian trade encounters no obstacles in those countries.

As-Sa'id said that he will visit Morocco next month to normalize trade relations between Egypt and Morocco. He said Egyptian officials believe that Arab officials feel that Egypt's return will strengthen the Arab nation.

Regarding the possibility of Egypt's participation in the Arab and Islamic summit conference, Dr as-Sa'id said: In fact, I do not have accurate information to this effect, but Egypt will respond if an invitation is made.

West Bank Reaction to PLO Departure Reported

JN211203 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Occupied Arab territories — news agencies — Our kinfolk in the occupied Arab territories received the news of the Palestinian fighters' departure from Tripoli port with hope for the beginning of a new stage in the PLO's struggle and with satisfaction at the fighters' peaceful departure. However, they did not hide their dissatisfaction with the Fatah dissidence, which was fed by Syria and Libya.

In the Gaza Strip, Haj Rashad ash-Shawwa, who was dismissed by the Israeli occupation authorities, told AFP it is time to turn Palestinian struggle into a political battle for the sake of holding negotiations in the interest of the Palestinians' basic rights and with the support of Egypt and Jordan, the two Arab countries closest to us.

Ash-Shawwa expressed belief that it is necessary to convene the PNC in the presence of representatives from the occupied territories. He added that the dissident forces under Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] will never enjoy the Palestinians' confidence and will have no credibility among them.

Bassam ash-Shak'ah, the mayor of Nabulus who was also dismissed by the occupation authorities, expressed the Palestinians' regret at the fact that 'Arafat was forced to leave Tripoli. He added: During the past few days we were extremly worried. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat must do his best to heal the rift and reunite Palestinian ranks.

The Jerusalem newspaper *ASH-SHA'B* says in its editorial today, Wednesday, that the Palestinians' departure affirmed the regret of our kinfolk in the occupied territory at the fact that the Palestinian fighters were led into exile by Arab hands. It condemns the plot against Palestinian unity and those who directly or indirectly concocted it.

UK's Heseltine Arrives in Beirut 23 Dec

NC230909 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] British Secretary of State for Defense Michael Heseltine arrived in Beirut this morning to inspect the British contingent of the Multinational Force. The British secretary of state for defense arrived in Beirut by helicopter via Cyprus. He will meet shortly with Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri, and return to Cyprus this evening.

Says Contingent Will Remain

NC231312 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] British Secretary of State for Defense Heseltine, who arrived in Beirut today to inspect the British contingent, has said that the contingent will remain in Lebanon within the Multinational Force until it completes its mission. He said: We do not want to discuss the contingent's withdrawal. He added: The events in Lebanon concern us all because they affect the entire Middle East.

'Indirect Negotiations' on Israeli Withdrawal

NC221421 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] A spokesman for the Zionist military governor in Sidon has stated that the governor's headquarters will move this week to Kafr Falus on Jazzin Road. The spokesman denied rumors regarding a partial Israeli withdrawal from southern areas in the near future. According to information received by the Voice of Arab Lebanon, high-level government sources asserted that indirect negotiations are taking place between Lebanon and Israel far from the limelight regarding the extent of the enemy's partial withdrawal. According to this information, Lebanon is demanding an Israeli withdrawal to the Al-Qasimi Bridge in the Abu Al-Aswad area, whereas the Israeli enemy insists on a withdrawal to only Az-Zahrani.

The information stresses that U.S. presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld is conducting the indirect negotiations and that practical results will appear before the beginning of next year.

Al-Wazzan Chairs Meeting on Antibombing Measures

NC221324 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] A security meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan at the Government House ended a short time ago. Following the meeting, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said there had been an in-depth discussion on all of the causes behind the current insecurity and on the measures which must be adopted to confront the continuing bombings. The prime minister declined to disclose the nature of these measures, asserting however that they are serious attempts at overcoming the forces of evil which do not desire the well-being of the homeland.

Troops May be Withdrawn From Shi'ite, Druze Areas

NC230858 Paris AFP in English 0841 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Beirut, Dec 23 (AFP) — The Lebanese Government might withdraw its troops from Shi'ite and Druze areas south of the capital and from the Ash-Shuf in view of tangible progress in peace talks, official sources said today. Lebanese-born Saudi envoy Rafiq al-Hariri, who has been acting as intermediary, met President Amin al-Jumayyil here last night to report on his contacts with leaders of the Shi'ite AMAL movement and Druze Progressive Socialist party. The sources said a formula for troop disengagement could be announced over the next few hours. All fronts in the mountains and the southern Beirut suburbs were quiet today.

Karami Asks PLO Withdrawal From N. Lebanon

LD221812 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1721 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 22 Dec KUNA — The chairman of the Supreme Coordination Council for Tripoli, Mr Rashid Karami, asked the Palestinian forces in the towns and villages of north Lebanon to start withdrawing to the Palestinian camps and Al-Biqa' zone.

He said in a statement to KUNA before leaving for Tripoli thathaving been in Damascus where he had been since his arrival from Geneva where he participated in the first session of the Lebanese National Dialogue: "In light of the announced Syrian-Saudi agreement concerning the situation in Tripoli, the plan is clear and requires the withdrawal of everyone during and after the departure of Yasir 'Arafat and his fighters, to the camps and Al-Biqa' so that not a single Palestinian fighter will remain in the towns or villages. That is the agreement, and we are confident that it will be fully implemented by all the concerned parties." He added: "The primary mission now facing the Supreme Coordination Council is to achieve national reconciliation through a national conference which should include all the powers, parties, and effective economic and political elements in Tripoli." He pointed out that the Coordination Council has undertaken its contacts and meetings in order to restore normality to Tripoli after the long sufferings it has endured.

Shi'ite Leader Views Situation; Raps U.S., Israel

PM221517 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 23 Dec 83 pp 20-22

[Interview with Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Shi'ite Higher Islamic Council, by Amin As-Siba'i in Beirut — date not given]

[Excerpts] At the beginning of the dialogue, which took place in three stages, we asked Shaykh Shams ad-Din: What are the practical results of the Lebanese civil resistance you are leading in the south a sit-in in Sa-Safa' Mosque in Al-'Amiliyah College against the Israeli occupation?

Shaykh Shams ad-Din replied: The sit-in at the As-Safa' Mosque is one of the means of expressing civil resistance which we announced in a speech on the occasion of 'Ashura' [Shi'ite

mourning festival]and which has found expression through various methods in the south, including the sit-in by southern Islamic ulemas in Sidon.

This type of resistance will continue with various methods and become even more widespread among all the Lebanese; eventually it will not be solely confined to Muslims or the south. It will continue until all of its objectives are achieved, the most significant of which is a total and unconditional Israeli withdrawal.

As to what the resistance has achieved thus far, the answer is:

First, it has created a state of general resistance and sense of commitment by the Lebanese in the south in particular which, we hope, will also emerge among all the Lebanese in general. In my view, this is a great achievement, and it allows us to counter Israeli propaganda, which depicts Israel to world opinion as an acceptable force in Lebanon.

Second, in the past 2 months this resistance has been able to virtually destroy Israel's project to establish a so-called Shi'ite army. We are certain that the decision to disband this army and the recantation by many of its elements and cadres was the result of the pressure this type of resistance created.

Third, it has utterly thwarted Israel's plans to establish a so-called national guard.

Fourth, and this is a major achievement that will develop even further, is that the resistance proves the principle that as long as Israel remains in the south, and even after it withdraws, it certainly will never enjoy any normal relations [with Lebanon] in the political, economic, social, or tourist fields.

AL-HAWADITH: Experience has shown that a different type of resistance is required to confront Israel. Is such resistance possible and can it be mounted without total Arab cooperation with Lebanon?

Shaykh Shams ad-Din: I believe that all types of resistance are essential. Israel has thus far faced resistance from regimes and during conventional wars, but the Arab and Islamic peoples have never participated in real resistance. We want to liberate Lebanon and all our efforts are devoted to this end. We want them to leave our country without leaving behind their "remnants" and "shadows."

We are seeking to achieve this objective through civil resistance, which we consider effective, although it takes time. In fact, we might need years before we achieve our final objective.

AL-HAWADITH: What effect will the recently-concluded U.S.-Israeli agrrement on the pretext of confronting communism in the area have on the future of the south in particular and Lebanon in general?

Shaykh Shams ad-Din: We were in fact deeply shocked by the the agreement between the United States and Israel. We consider it the worst mistake the United States has committed in recent decades, not only with regard to the Muslims and Arabs, but also with regard to its own interests, role, and position in the Middle East. We reject and condemn this agreement. We also condemn the United States for going along with Israel's plans. In view of Israel's designs in Lebanon the agreement will have adverse effects, whether with regard to the continuation of the occupation or the attainment of Israel's objectives in Lebanon such as obtaining privileges, normalizing relations, fragmenting the country, and dominating it. We will fight with all the means at our disposal against the effects of this agreement.

With regard to the question of combating the communist tide in the Middle East, the answer to this is that if communism had any foothold in the Arab world this world would be entirely communist today. Marxism, communism, and the Soviet Union have had many golden opportunities in the past 40 years and yet we see communist ideology today in a state of retreat and defeat in the face of the genuine Arab and Islamic character. Israel's talk of a communist tide is a pretext it uses with the aim of lending a moral character to its colonialist and expansionist plans and winning even further American support for its plans, which will eventually cause the destruction and loss of Western interests in the area.

AL-HAWADITH: Israeli officials have talked of the division of Lebanon into communal cantons as a solution of the Lebanese problem. Others say that the partition plan is in the process of being implemented. How can such plans be thwarted?

Shaykh Shams ad-Din: Yes, Israeli officials have recently openly been speaking on their plans to fragment Lebanon on a communal basis, a danger to which we have drawn attention since the beginning of the occupation. The danger of partition has become secondary to that of fragmentation. Israel will not be satisfied with merely partitioning Lebanon, but will seek to fragment it and establish entities on a communal basis. It has never ceased working to this end; it has aroused communal strife as it did in the Ash-Shuf Mountains. We are afraid it will do the same in the south and other areas. But, as we said, we shall fight against this danger, and we abide by what we say.

AL-HAWADITH: The United States, and previously Israel, rejected the nullification or amendment of the 17 May agreement. How can a way out of this predicament be found?

Shaykh Shams ad-Din: Our attitude toward this agreement has been clear from the beginning. We said that we find no moral or legal basis for negotiating with the Israelis. The only basis regulating relations between Lebanon and Israel should be the 1949 armistice agreement and Security Council Resolutions 508, 509, and 520. But these negotiations did take place, and by negotiating with the Israelis Lebanon lost a strong position wqhile the Israeli's gain was twofold: It gained by lending a legal character to the occupation derived from the negotiations. It also gained by superseding the armistice agreement and the Security Council resolutions and by relieving itself of pressure from world opinion, which was demanding its immediate withdrawal from Lebanon.

Our attitude toward the agreement is based on nonrecognition of the legality of the negotiations. I have no "prescription" for a way out of this predicament. We have not recognized the agreement

and thus there is no point in trying to discuss a solution for it. Those who worked for the agreement — the Americans, the Lebanese state, and the Chamber of Deputies members who approved it — must find a suitable way out. We are against the agreement, but at the same time do not wish to exploit our stand in political competition or the creation of local frictions. The only way out that we see is to nullify the agreement or amend it so that first it is consistent with Lebanon's interest, sovereignty, independence, and free political decisionmaking, and second, it achieves a total Israeli withdrawal.

AL-HAWADITH: The Shi'ites have issued many warnings to the Americans and Israelis regarding the risks involved in any attempt to forcefully storm the southern suburb [of Beirut]. Do you have any information justifying these warnings, and when will the southern suburb again come under the state authority?

Shaykh Shams ad-Din: In the recent statement issued by the Shi'ite Higher Islamic Council we warned any party intending to storm the southern suburb because this would lead to a national disaster whose extent only God knows. But, in fact, these are precautionary warnings in view of the present rumormongering. We have no material evidence to indicate that such a situationis likely to occur. As to when the southern suburb will again be brought under the state authority we, as you know, from the beginning — and this is a point that I would like to stress — have been against involving the southern suburb in the equation of fighting and war that developed following Israel's partial withdrawal. Meanwhile, we fully support the efforts being made to resist the domination plan and are against involving the southern suburb in any military confrontation similar to the one in the mountains in order to preserve the suburb and prevent any widening of the sphere of sedition. I believe that we have succeeded in this regard, and continue to work to avert this kind of conflict in the southern suburb.

AL-HAWADITH: There are increasing rumors, warnings, and political fears of the beginning of a radical dispute between the Shi'ites and Sunnis. Is there anything to justify these rumors, and how can a unified Islamic stand thwart what appears to be a studied plan to sow division and fighting?

Shaykh Shams ad-Din: I hear a lot of noisy talk about this subject. We believe that we must consolidate the unity among Muslims in Lebanon. The Shi'ites and Sunnis must deal with one another as Muslims. They are Muslims and their religious duty and national interest call upon them to deal with one another as Muslims.

RFL Updates Casualty Toll in Beirut Blast

NC221303 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 145 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Excerpts] A large number of houses and commercial establishments were damaged west and east of Damascus road when a truck blew up near a French forces' post [in Beirut yesterday]. Before the rescue and rubble clearing work was completed, five bodies belonging to one family were found. Thus, the number of casualties is as follows: Lebanese civilians — 15 dead and 17 wounded; Lebanese military — 2 dead, 1 of whom was a member of the civil defense department; French military — 1 dead and 11 wounded. Scores of persons were released from hospitals after treatment for minor injuries.

Beirut Reports Security Plan; Tripoli Near Normal

NC230838 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Calm prevails in all Lebanese areas except the south while political contacts are underway in an appropriate political and security atmosphere to consolidate the calm within an integrated security plan to include all Lebanese territory. The plan is expected to be made public within the next few hours as reported.

Internal security forces' sources in Tripoli have denied reports carried by the private information media that members of the Islamic Unification Movement in civilian clothing are patrolling the city. The sources said the report is unfounded. The northern capital is enjoying calm while more families are returning to the city where life and work is proceeding normally.

An explosive device went off last night in the Sidon area in the house of Mahmud Yusuf Hulayhil on Sirubiya Street east of Sidon. The owner of the house, his daughter, and brother were wounded. Grave damage was caused to the house and nearby buildings.

Between 0730 and 0830 this morning, the Israeli forces combed the boulevard Ma'ruf Sa'd from ar-Rahibat junction up to Sayniq Bridge. Mine detectors were used while Sa'd Haddad's militias took part in the combing operation opening fire to prevent citizens from using the boulevard.

Clashes in Mountain; Sniping at Army Positions

NC221513 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] A security source said that clashes occurred between Suq al-Gharb and 'Aytat and lasted for 35 minutes before ending at 1445. The source added that Army positions in 'Ayn Ksur came under sniper and RPG fire at 1600.

More Army Positions Shelled

NC221558 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 2 2Dec 83

[Text] At 1700, Harat B'asir and Al-Jiyah came under shelling from 82-mm mortar, 106-mm flat trajectory cannons, and 23-mm antitank guns. The emplacements in B'asir and Barja were the sources of fire. Meanwhile, Lebanese Army positions in Qabr Shmun and 'Ayn Ksur were subjected to intermittent artillery shelling from 'Aytat at 1545. The shelling ceased at approximately 1630.

Commentary Rejects U.S. Conditions for Withdrawal

JN221656 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: U.S. President Reagan has declared that in order for his forces to be withdrawn from Lebanon, the Lebanese should defend Israel's security by legalizing the Shultz agreement. He also stated that in order for his threats against Syria to be stopped, the Syrian command should no longer confront U.S. plans or Zionist expansionism. As his first condition for canceling his description of Palestinian activity as terrorism, he believes that the Palestinians should recognize Israel as their heir [to Palestine] and the custodian of their existence. By way of a final condition for the Arabs, Reagan called upon the Arab nation to agree to host the Rapid Deployment Force on its territory and to transform the Arab homeland into an arena of superpower conflict in order to serve American strategy against the USSR and to impose its hegemony over everyone in the world.

Thus, the U.S. President has left the Arabs no choice except to yield to Israel and its ambitions, and to relinquish their rights — since some of them have agreed to befriend the United States and devote themselves to its plans and objectives. If we add the mocking of Arab feelings and the daily shellings of Lebanon and its people by the U.S. Navy to these conditions, it becomes clear that the United States is not only asking us to yield, but is seeking to annihilate the Arabs as well, because it considers the Zionists to be replacements for the Arabs in their own land.

Since these are the U.S. conditions, we in Syria — being the source of Arab strength and steadfastness — have our own conditions, regardless of the disparity in strength between us and the United States. Lebanon is an Arab land, and the U.S. presence in Beirut is an invasion and occupation, as was the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon. Therefore, as part of our right to defend our rights, we ask the United States to leave our Arab land. Furthermore, since the United States has strategically allied itself with Israel — Israel, our enemy which is occupying our land, evicting our people, and using American weapons to kill us — we say no to its plans, its liquidationist solutions, and its cunning diplomacy.

Just as the United States has declared that we must lay down our and not confront its air and naval reconnaissance operations, so we declare that the United States must admit its aggression and recognize the rights of the Palestinian people, rights which have been recognized by the world community. It must also cancel its alliance with and political-military support for Israel in return for our subsequent admission that the United States is neutral and that its efforts at mediation are sincere. As we are certain that the U.S. commitment to Zionist objectives will force the United States to reject our conditions, we therefore reject its conditions, adhere to our firm position and deep ideology, and insist on using every means that has been approved by international law in order to regain all our usurped rights.

We have evidence of U.S. stands and the deceit it has practiced toward the Arabs since the usurpation of Palestine. When the UN General Assembly recognized the Palestinian people's legitimate and national rights, the United States stood alone with Israel against this just international stand. When Israel announced the annexation of Jerusalem and the Golan, the U.S. Administration doubled its military and economic aid to the Zionist aggressors. Washington did not hesitate to emphasize its support for the Zionist settlement policy by vetoing the international resolutions at the UN Security Council which condemned this policy and called on Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

Contrary to the expectations of those who have been deceived by U.S. diplomacy, the U.S. Administration has considered Begin, Sharon, and Shamir to be its principal allies, although U.S. newspapers in particular have considered these Zionist figures to be the most prominent symbols of world terrorism. Faced with this misleading and aggressive behavior that the Reagan administration has adopted as U.S. strategy in the Middle East, it is not possible for Reagan to speak of peace while he is in fact the leading enemy of peace and the most prominent American who hates the Arabs.

This is the point from which Syria's stand and conditions stem. Syria will neither appease aggressors nor strike bargains on a right to which the Arab people adhere. Just as the *New Jersey* is strong and its guns made to destroy, so this warship is vulnerable at sea. If U.S. vision has certain limits, as the leaders of the Pentagon claim, Arab patience also has its limits. The side that defends rights and peace shall be victorious, not the side of the killers who are anxious to shed the blood of the world's innocent people.

Khaddam Receives Lebanese Officials 22 December

JN221533 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus — 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, received Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Lebanese Shi'ite Higher Council; Lebanese Deputy Husayn al-Husayni; and Muhammad Mahmud. The talks held during the meeting were devoted to the current Lebanese situation.

Damascus Reports 'Arafat's Cairo Visit

JN221921 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Immediately after arriving in Cairo today, Yasir 'Arafat held a closed-door meeting with the president of the Egyptian regime, Husni Mubarak. However, news agencies have made no reports concerning the topics discussed during the meeting. Prior to 'Arafat's arrival at Al-Qubbah Palace, Mubarak affirmed that 'Arafat's visit to Cairo indicates that he supports the Egyptian trend regarding direct negotiations with Israel.

In an interview with the Israeli paper *MA'ARIV*, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that 'Arafat is now more prepared to open negotiations with Israel and Jordan.

Reportage on Reaction to Mubarak-'Arafat Meeting

Meeting Called Treaty 'Violation'

TA221712 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Israel says that the meeting between 'Arafat and Mubarak is an overt violation of the peace treaty with Egypt. The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has instructed Israeli Ambassador in Washington Me'ir Rosenne to confer with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger and to inform him of this position. Our correspondent in Washington Elimelekh Ram adds that from briefings to journalists by senior administration officials it can be inferred that the United States is seeking to exploit 'Arafat's situation in order to resume contacts on the Reagan initiative and to get his consent to include Husayn in the negotiations.

Shamir: 'Blow' to Peace

TA222108 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Yitzhaq Shamir has said that Yasir 'Arafat's call on the presidential palace in Cairo constitutes a very serious blow to the peace process. We must go ahead with the peace process which we began at Camp David, a process which proved efficient. Israel is convinced, Shamir said, that only direct negotiations with its neighbors will lead to peace. Israel is willing to begin negotiating any time with Jordan or any other Arab country. Nevertheless, the prime minister emphasized, Israel will not agree to negotiate with the PLO, neither directly nor indirectly, because its very existence is counter to peace and, sooner or later, this organization will disappear from the political arena.

Our correspondent Nicolas Rosenblum reports that these remarks were made at a state banquet in honor of Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Guilio Andreotti.

Government May Lodge Protest

TA221537 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Excerpts] From Jerusalem, not very far from the Al-'Aqsa Mosque, our Foreign Ministry reacted to the meeting between Mubarak and 'Arafat in Cairo by saying that the meeting represents a serious blow to the peace process. Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today told Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Giulio Andreotti that the meeting in Cairo arouses astonishment and regret. Israel will apparently lodge an official protest with Cairo about this issue. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

[Begin recording] Yasir 'Arafat, who got out of Lebanon by the skin of his teeth, has turned the departure from Tripoli into the beginning of new political activity. Israel is following this process with great anxiety.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told his guest, Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Giulio Andreotti, that the meeting in Cairo arouses astonishment and regret. Shamir recalled that following As-Sadat's assassination, 'Arafat and his men danced in the streets of Beirut but now Mubarak is willing to meet the man. These remarks became an official announcement of the prime minister's office. Israel will apparently lodge its offical protest with Cairo through diplomatic channels shortly. Beyond this, no further measures are foreseen. Political observers today pointed out that Western leaders as well frequently confer with 'Arafat and, anyway, Israeli-Egyptian relations are in a deep freeze and this does not allow for numerous acts of protest. [end recording]

Ben-Elisar Comments

TA221332 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Interview with MK Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, by Yitzhaq Ro'e — live, in the studio]

[Excerpt] [Ro'e] Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, let us open with the meeting currently underway between Yasir 'Arafat and Husni Mubarak in Cairo's Al-Qubbah Palace. You were the first Israeli ambassador to Cairo and yesterday you were quoted as saying it is good that the meeting is taking place while an Israeli flag is flying in Cairo. However, is it not possible to say that from 'Arafat's point of view, at least, this is part of the victory, part of the success scored following the Peace for Galilee war, that he is returning to Egypt and is being received by the Egyptian president and prime minister?

[Ben-Elisar] First, let us not exaggerate. I do not think it is good that 'Arafat is meeting with Mubarak. This is certainly not a day of joy. What I am saying is that this does not constitute a violation of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. First, many leaders, including Western ones, have met with 'Arafat and this was not a cause for severing relations between them and Israel. I must also note that even the guest now visiting Israel, the Italian foreign affairs minister, with whom everyone — including myself — is meeting, has met with 'Arafat. Andreotti even invited 'Arafat to meet with him in his capacity as president of the International Interparliamentary Union.

What I am saying is that this expresses more than anything else the defeat of 'Arafat. 'Arafat is meeting today with the Egyptian president. But Egypt not only signed a peace treaty with Israel, but the Israeli flag is indeed flying over the Israeli Embassy in Cairo.

[Ro'e] What more though? Can such a meeting not further cool this already cool peace between us?

[Ben-Elisar] No, I do not think this will have any effect on relations. It is clear that this is not a thing which could improve relations but it will not damage them either. The relations are cool indeed but, despite this, the Israeli-Egyptian peace is still a supreme interest of both countries, of Egypt as well [as Israel].

[Ro'e] Can you view the present development as a step in the direction of a political option which 'Arafat may now choose? Is he adopting the political option now?

[Ben-Elisar] There is not doubt that this marks a beginning of a road from 'Arafat's viewpoint. The very fact that following his withdrawal from Tripoli he is meeting with Mubarak indicates that he has selected the political road as one of his options. (?I am not convinced) he will give up terrorism and his main objective which is the liquidation of the State of Israel. Certainly not. He said that the evacuation from Tripoli is the way to Jerusalem. Well, he will not reach this destination. However, in our present political as well as public relations preparations, we must take into consideration the fact that 'Arafat is meeting with Mubarak and that hence, the false but still existing image of a moderate 'Arafat, especially in the West, will increase and be reinforced.

[Ro'e] Are you satisfied with the decision not to disrupt the terrorists' evacuation from Tripoli, a decision which was apparently made by Israeli decision-makers?

[Ben-Elisar] This issue has a practical meaning for me, not historical value. If it had been possible to disrupt or prevent this, I would certainly have been in favor.

[Ro'e] Was it impossible to prevent this?

[Ben-Elisar] I think not.

Rosenne, Eagleburger Meeting 'Difficult'

TA230612 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] The Israeli ambassador in the United States, Me'ir Rosenne, last night had a difficult meeting with U.S. Under Secretary Lawrence Eagleburger regarding the meeting between the Egyptian president and the PLO head.

Our correspondent Elimelekh Ram reports that Ambassador Rosenne was asked to bring the Israeli attitude — that the meeting between 'Arafat and Mubarak is a violation of the Egyptian-Israeli peace process — before the U.S. Administration. The U.S. under secretary reiterated the administration's stand that the meeting is an encouraging event which might endow the Reagan plan with a strong momentum, if and when 'Arafat might agree to open negotiations according to this initiative. The meeting of the two dignitaries ended in disagreement.

UN Envoy Interviewed

TA230954 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Interview with Israel's UN Ambassador Yehuda Blum by Arye Meckel in New York; date not given — recorded]

[Text] [Blum] We have no intention of leaving anybody with any doubt about the deep resentment with which we regard those events in Egypt [the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting].

[Meckel] Did this meeting surprise you, or were there various signs of it lately in the Egyptian behavior at the United Nations? I know, for instance, that Egypt voted for the resolution condemning U.S.-Israeli cooperation.

[Blum] That was so. And we received this Egyptian vote with great resentment as well, and we said so to the Egyptians, here and in other places. However, this was preceded by very sharp Egyptian expressions against Israel in the special political committee and in various other UN forums during the last 3 months, which unfortunately, reminded us of Egyptian statements that were made before the beginning of the peace process.

This is a process which must cause concern. We protested to the Egyptians over these statements and we made it clear to them that such behavior and such votes do not suit the peace treaty and the peace relations existing between the two countries.

[Meckel] In light of all those signs, is it possible to say that the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting did not surprise you?

[Blum] Let us not talk of surprises. This meeting is part of the wider system of Egyptian behavior which, in our opinion, does not suit the peace treaty, either as a document or in its implementation.

[Meckel] Egypt is about to enter the Security Council. In actual fact this will happen in about a week, on 1 January. In light of this meeting and the other signs, is this development a cause for concern to the Israeli Government?

[Blum] The Egyptians have been using the UN podium for many years in order to try to receive through it a kind of confirmation from the Arab world, to improve their status in Arab eyes. There is no doubt that they will try to use their membership in the Security Council to achieve this aim. Definitely there is room for fear that they will use the podium of the Security Council, which will be given to them now as a member of the Council for the next 2 years, in order to intensify the anti-Israeli campaign which they have opened and actually led in the last few months.

[Meckel] Will there be an effort made to talk to them, to explain to them that this is not the proper way?

[Blum] We talk to them at every opportunity. They are well aware of our opinions on this subject and of the way in which we see our behavior [as heard]. To my regret, our efforts so far have not borne fruit.

Ghali Rejects Israeli Opposition

TA230557 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has rejected Israeli criticism of yesterday's meeting between 'Arafat and Egyptian President Mubarak. Dr Ghali told reporter Alan Ben-'Ami: The meeting was a contribution to Middle East peace.

[Begin recording] [Ghali] The meeting was a very positive and constructive meeting and it represents a contribution towards a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

[Ben-'Ami] You know of course that the meeting has come in for some sharp criticism here in Israel, the argument being that in

fact it violates the Camp David peace process?

[Ghali] 'Arafat is recognized by 84 or 100 countries and they have diplomatic relations with him and they have contacts with him and Egypt has always had a bureau of the PLO in Cairo since before the visit of President as-Sadat and after the visit of President as-Sadat. So I don't see where is the violation. This is a rejectionist attitude in Israel and you'll find the same rejectionist attitude in certain Palestinian elements in (?Tunis). We have two rejectionist attitudes: the Israeli one and the Arab and Palestinian one. And I will not say that there is an objective alliance between the two attitudes.

[Ben-'Ami] We gather that one of the hopes of Egypt of the meeting is that 'Arafat could be persuaded, perhaps, to join King Husayn in coming into the Camp David process?

[Ghali] He is not entering the field about this. This is our position that we believe that this visit as such will reinforce moderation and will give a new momentum to the peace process.

[Ben-'Ami] With regard to the peace process, if I'm not mistaken it was yourself, Dr Ghali, who came up with the phrase some months ago, a cold peace, being in existence now between Egypt and Israel.

[Ghali] Yes.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you still stand by that? Do you still see it cold peace being —

[Ghali — interrupting] Yes, we are trying our best to transform this cold peace into warm peace but still we are not succeeding.

[Ben-'Ami] I think that —

[Ghali] Certainly, the visit of 'Arafat is an effort toward this reinforcement of the peace process. [end recording]

Egypt's Mustafa Khalil Comments

TA222047 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Former Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil said tonight that the aim of the meeting between Mubarak and 'Arafat was to convince the PLO to join the peace process. In a telephone interview with our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari, Khalil said Egypt has not changed its positions and continues to follow the policy of seeking a comprehensive peace. We have always advised the PLO to follow in our footsteps, said Khalil, and therefore it is now important to encourage 'Arafat to join in. Asked whether joint moves by Egypt and the PLO can now be expected, Khalil said that no one can predict the ramifications of the meeting since 'Arafat has to consult with the other PLO factions. He emphasized that King Husayn is also attempting to persuade 'Arafat to opt for a negotiated settlement. Khalil concluded by telling our correspondent that he appeals to the Israeli public to trust Egypt's intentions to achieve a comprehensive and just peace. He said Israel must cooperate in this, since this is the only way.

West Bank Leaders React

TA230811 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Palestinian leaders in the territories gave mixed reactions to the 'Arafat-Mubarak encounter. Former Jordanian Cabinet Minister Anwar Nusaybah told ASSOCIATED PRESS he thought it was a welcome gesture, though it didn't necessarily mean 'Arafat accepted the Camp David accords. Nusaybah said it was a move in the right direction. But former Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah said it would lead to a deepening of the split in the PLO, which would be exploited by the United States and Israel.

Press Comments

TA231110 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 23 Dec 83

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Text] *DAVAR* says that the summit meeting between President Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat should not have surprised anybody although it certainly has not contributed to relations between the Egyptian and Israeli Governments which have been deteriorating for many months. This meeting faithfully reflects the affinity of interests of the two Arab leaders despite the difference between the present leader of the biggest Arab country and the PLO leader who barely escaped the hands of the Syrian-supported rebels and the Israeli Navy harassments.

The criticism voiced by various Israeli elements will change nothing, will not scare Egypt and will not make much of an impression in the world. And this is so because of the long freeze in the peace process and to a great extent because of Israel's policy. Protests should not be everything, however; and practical steps should be taken soon to prevent the Egyptian-Israeli peace — which is still important even today — from being emptied of its content.

HA'ARETZ writes that one of the explanations for the U.S. behavior in saving 'Arafat from the Tripoli trap is the meeting between 'Arafat and Egypt's president. He and his men had to be extricated from the siege in order to allow 'Arafat and Egypt to bury the hatchet as a precondition for reviving the Reagan plan. There is room to doubt whether those U.S. calculations will turn out well. The U.S. leadership, which worked hard to guard 'Arafat as a tool in implementing the Reagan plan, might be again disappointed by him.

HATZOFE says that even if we accept the opinion of those who think that 'Arafat's visit to Cairo is but his going to Canossa, this visit contributed nothing to improving the Israeli-Egyptian relations. This visit even deepened the rift. The expulsion of 'Arafat from the arena is a precondition to advancing the peace process. The red carpet spread out in front of the head of the terrorists, at the initiative of his rescuers, proves that for the sake of a murderer and a warmonger, they are ready to endanger the process of advancing peace in the Middle East.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that in vain the United States is gambling on 'Arafat as the potential peacemaker. 'Arafat has only a past and no future. His only possible contribution to the future is by not interfering with his people when they choose for themselves a new national leadership, which will destroy tired illusions and recognize hard facts. On our part as well, we will never make peace with 'Arafat. Not only because he headed a terror organization when it carried out its most extreme deeds but also — and maybe above all — because this man does not deserve even minimal support from his people, let alone from us. The importance of the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting, then, is not on the personal plane, and not even on the immediate political plane. Its importance is in exposing the new Palestinian readiness to go on the road toward dialogue with us. However, it will not be the defeated and beaten Yasir 'Arafat who will lead them on this road.

Andreotti Ends 2-Day Visit to Israel
AU231011 Rome ANSA in English 0820 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] (ANSA) Tel Aviv, December 23 — Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti wound up an official two-day visit to Israel last night sounding a note of moderate optimism with regard to the situation in the Middle East.

Israeli Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir publicly stated that Italy was one of the few countries which can talk to both Arabs and Israelis because Italian policy is inspired by the desire to further peace and the peaceful coexistence of peoples.

Andreotti in his talks with Israeli leaders stressed Italy's understanding of both the Palestinians' need for a homeland and Israel's right to existence and security.

Shamir reaffirmed his government's intention to pull Israeli troops out of Lebanon in accordance with the accords reached last May on condition that Syrian troops are also withdrawn.

Head of state Hayim Herzog, receiving Andreotti Thursday, confirmed Israel's determination not to deal with the Palestinian Liberation Ogranization of Yasir 'Arafat. However, Herzog said that the Jewish state had stepped up its relations with leaders of Palestinians living in the Israeli- occupied territories who follow a moderate line.

Andreotti voiced the hope that the PLO would pursue an open-minded policy as urged by Italy for some time. Without a solution to the Palestinian problem the entire Mideast picture remains uncertain, the Italian foreign minister insisted.

During his talks here, Andreotti and Israeli leaders also discussed prospects for the intensification of economic, commercial and cultural cooperation between the two countries. They also discussed the enlargement of the European Economic Community to include Spain and Portugal as full members. Israel did not want this planned enlargement to harm Israeli agriculture.

Report of Imminent Withdrawal to Az-Zahrani Denied
TA222007 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Lebanese radio stations this evening report that Israel has decided to carry out a further withdrawal to areas south of the Az-Zahrani River. Voice of Lebanon reported that this plan has already aroused panic in southern Lebanon. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that the Israeli legation in Beirut has denied that an IDF withdrawal is imminent.

Deputy Foreign Minister Ben-Me'ir Resigns
TA221943 Jerusalem Domestic Television in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir has resigned. This evening Dr Ben-Me'ir submitted his letter of resignation to Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The details have been learned by our correspondent on party affairs Nisim Mish'al, who is now in our Tel Aviv studio:

[Mish'al] Dr Ben-Me'ir informed the prime minister on Tuesday night of his decision to resign, but Mr Shamir was taken by surprise at this decision on the part of his deputy, and asked him to postpone his resignation. The two decided they would hold a further talk today, Thursday, before a final decision was made on this matter.

This evening the two met and talked at length, and afterward Dr Ben-Me'ir gave his letter of resignation to the prime minister. We can perhaps learn more about the reasons for this resignation from the letter submitted to the prime minister, in which Dr Ben-Me'ir writes: The condition of the National Religious Party [NRP] is very bad, and I believe that my duty to my electorate is to devote more time and energy to the movement which I represent.

Ben-Me'ir goes on to add: I have reached the conclusion that I have exhausted my ability to contribute to the Foreign Ministry, and the continuation of my work in the Foreign Ministry is not essential. From now on I will be able to speak out more freely on all the crucial problems confronting our country.

This is the text of the letter of resignation.

The question is, what is the political significance of this resignation? The state of the coalition will not be affected by the resignation, since Ben-Me'ir will continue to support the present government. But there is no doubt that the resignation could well speed up a realignment within the NRP — either toward an internal upheaval, or for a separate list of the faction of the NRP's young guard in the next elections. It should also be stressed that Ben-Meir's resignation will certainly intensify the pressures that will be exerted on the prime minister within the Likud to assign someone the Foreign Ministry portfolio. Likud elements are bound to claim now that the prime minister cannot himself handle two key posts, particulary when he does not even

have a deputy minister to help him. This fact will apparently compel Mr Shamir once again to tackle the issue of assigning portfolios in his government — an issue he was anxious to put off to a later date.

MK Rabin Analyzes Strategic Agreement With U.S.

TA221446 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 21 Dec 83 p 10

[Analysis by MK Yitzhaq Rabin "No to a Strategic Agreement"]

[Text] A system of strategic cooperation has existed between Israel and the United States for many years. Israel, in the past, was guided by the following principles in its attitude toward this issue:

1. Maximum U.S. aid to strengthen the IDF and to ease the burden on the Israeli economy as a result of the defense budget.

2. Cooperation regarding developments in the Middle East, including the possibility of Israeli military activity, when this activity serves our vital security interests.

3. All this without losing our political independence and Israeli freedom of military action, when vital Israeli needs come up which force the activation of the IDF.

Those were the principles which guided most of Israeli Cabinets in their efforts to extend strategic cooperation with the United States.

No government demanded [darsha], asked, or even showed interest in a mutual defense pact [brit hagana hadadit] between Israel and the United States. In relations between the U.S. and Israeli peoples there is a shared morality and sense of values, such as democracy and the determination to prevent Soviet domination over the Middle East, a result of the hostile policies adopted by the Soviet Union toward Israel since 1955 and its support for elementsin the Arab world most extreme and hostile toward Israel

In addition to this, Israel has a special place in the U.S. public consciousness because Israel has never demanded [darsha] that U.S. soldiers spill even one drop of their blood for the defense of Israel.

Little Israel, unlike the countries of NATO and of other U.S. pacts in the world, received the sympathy of the U.S. heart because it said: We are strong enough to defend ourselves. Give us the arms and we will do this job. This attitude elicits sympathy and a readiness to aid Israel.

A mutual defense pact would have taken away Israel's political independence and certainly its military freedom of action. From the moment the United States enters a defense pact, it seeks to ensure it will not, all of a sudden, find itself in a war.

Therefore, the central condition in any defense pact between the United States and any country is the limiting of the military freedom of action of that country. West Germany, as a member of NATO, is not allowed to take any military action against the forces of the Warsaw Pact without authorization from a NATO commander, who is always an American. The FRG cannot even undertake an aerial reconnaisance mission without NATO authorization.

I do not mean to say that in the absence of a defense pact with the United States Israel has complete freedom of military action. However there is a significant difference if in the absence of such a pact, Israel can enter Lebanon, decide its goals there, and of course know that the Multinational Force can intervene in deciding the length of the fighting. The State of Israel does not have complete freedom of action and never has had. But it has freedom of action as an independent country, and not as a satellite of the United States.

The planes of strategic cooperation that should be developed are:

1. Increasing U.S. aid to purchase arms and military equipment. The higher the quality of the equipment we receive from the United States, the more the IDF strength will increase.

2. Increasing U.S. economic aid in order to help the Israeli economy, in light of the tremendous burden of the defense budget on the economic development capabilities, and to help develor the Israeli economy.

3. Exchanging intelligence information regarding Middle Easat events.

It seems to me it is important to give Israeli information regarding modern Soviet equipment held by the Arab armies to the United States. And this is also a service to Israel because the United States manufactures most of the good arms we have, and by supplying such information we make sure that the arms intended for the IDF suit us.

The exchange of intelligence evaluations is vital for creating an infrastructure in case there are developments in the Arab world, developments that might force Israel or the United States, or both, to take a coordinated military or political action.

4. Agreeing to strategic cooperation based upon a joint need by both countries. For instance: In September 1970 King Husayn, through the United States, asked the Israeli Air Force to act on his behalf. This happened when Jordan decided to liquidate the PLO in its territory. Syria sent three armored brigades into Jordan in order to aid the PLO. A difficult situation was created for the Jordanians. Therefore, Husayn asked for aid.

Israel expressed a readiness to act, but in a different way. The IDF concentrated its forces on the Golan Heights and created a threat. By advancing 15 km south of the Golan Heights, it cut off the Syrian forces in Jordan from Syria. U.S.- Israeli strategic cooperation was agreed to in case the Soviet Union intervened, or the southern border (Suez) erupted. To the best of my knowledge, this was the peak of bilateral strategic cooperation, because the PLO was liquidated in Jordan and the Syrians withdrew from there. It is no accident that the PLO calls this period "black September." It seems to me that this example should be the model.

If a U.S. need arises for Israeli cooperation it should be brought before us, and Israel can then decide if this justifies a military action on its part.

I am opposed to forcing Israel in advance, by agreements, to take military action. The freedom of decision regarding each case should be left in our hands. Israel has no reason to court the United States in order to reach an agreement for strategic cooperation. In most of the Middle East cases it will be the United States which would be interested in our military strength. We had better leave this initiative to the United States.

5. Holding joint exercises of the forces and establishing U.S. emergency stores in Israel. However, even on this subject I would prefer to leave the initiative to the Americans. I prefer an Israel which is being courted, rather than an Israel courting the United States. I would not want a situation to be created despite the Soviet hostility toward us, in which there are U.S. targets in Israel, such as military emergency stores, which are not intended for IDF use.

I would like us to remain a country whose military power and territory are used for achieving Israeli military and political objectives.

To sum up: Israel should seek maximum U.S. support and aid in order to strengthen its economic and military powers and cooperate with the United States regarding political and military objectives agreed to by both countries. But at the same time Israel should maintain its independence and its freedom of military action. I prefer all these to exist without a formal undertaking by Israel to serve the United States.

Explosion In Sidon Causes No Damage 23 Dec
TA230912 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0844 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] An explosive charge blew up early this morning south of the Sand Square in Sidon. There were no casualties or damage. This is the second attempt in the last 24 hours to attack IDF forces in Sidon. A hand grenade was thrown yesterday at an IDF vehicle in Sidon; also in this case there were no casualties. This was reported by our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz.

Grenade in Nabulus; Fire Bombs in Jerusalem
TA231049 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] A hand grenade was thrown last night toward Bet Romano in Nabulus. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that an unknown person hurled the Soviet-made grenade into the yard and escaped. The security forces imposed a curfew on the casbah area which is still in effect.

Two Molotov cocktails were thrown this morning toward two houses in the suburb of Shu'fat in East Jerusalem. The motives behind this are not yet known. No damage was done and nobody was hurt.

ALGERIA

FLN Elects Central Committee, Endorses Bendjedid

LD221855 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The fifth FLN Conference ended 6 minutes ago with the election of the members of the Central Committee, who renewed their confidence in Brother Chadli Bendjedid as FLN secretary general and FLN candidate for the presidency. This session, the eighth of the conference, ended with the national anthem.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Condemns Mubarak-'Arafat Meeting

LD231028 Tripoli JANA in English 0838 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi al Awal 18, Dec 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution condemned Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with the president of the Egyptian regime and described it as provoking...[JANA ellipsis] He further explained that Egypt after recognising the enemy was blacklisted and boycotted till it has withdrawn its recognition.

The leader went on saying that the problem between us and the Zionist enemy is the issue of Palestine. If 'Arafat, the defender of the cause, meets with the Egyptian president who has recognised what is called Israel, then everything has been turned upside down.

The leader's condemnation came in a speech delivered yesterday evening to the women's gathering at the basic people's conference at central Tripoli.

MOROCCO

Boucetta Returns From Gulf Tour 22 December

LD221501 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Mr M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs, returned to Morocco this morning following his tour of several Gulf states, during which he delivered messages from King Hassan II to the leaders of those countries. Mr Boucetta made this statement:

[Begin recording] [Words indistinct] a tour during which I delivered messages from King Hassan II to his brothers, the kings and presidents of the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia. As you know, the issue at hand is the confirmation of the invitations which have been issued for the Islamic conference, which will be held in Casablanca in the middle of next month. All of them received the invitation with [words indistinct] verbal messages, which I will convey to the king. [end recording]

U.S. 'Responsible' for Kuwait Explosions

PM221539 Rabat AL-'ALAM in Arabic 15 Dec 83 p 2

[L. 'Abd al-Khliq article: "Spotlight"]

[Text] U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation was demonstrated once more in Lebanon last Tuesday. This time, U.S. battleships shelled Syrian positions in the Lebanese mountains. As a backup move, the Israeli Navy shelled Palestinian positions. It is public knowledge that these same positions had came under U.S. and Israeli fire once before in what was seen as the beginning of a serious escalation by Washington and Tel Aviv. The purpose of this escalation was to cause additional instability in order to ensure the ultimate fulfillment of their concept of strategic security and thus force the Arab states to capitulate and join the U.S. peace process.

It is clear that the latest document in this hostile campaign coincides with attempts to undermine the stability and security of certain states known to have pursued a balanced policy in the region. This includes such nations as Kuwait, which has set an example of democracy at home and moderation and wisdom abroad.

The internal and external dimensions of the Kuwaiti explosions confirm that the escalation is likely to extend to all countries in the region, something which ultimately serves the aims of the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance.

The United States claims to be interested in the security and stability of certain states in the Arab East, but its policy of escalation causes tension in more than one country. The United States hopes that the region may thus completely capitulate to its strategic concept. On this basis, it is responsible for what happened in Kuwait.

The current situation makes it incumbent upon all Arab states to restore their solidarity. This means that certain states should reconsider their policy toward the PLO, and commit themselves to the Fes unified Arab peace plan for the Middle East. This would prevent international polarization in the area.

LE MATIN on 'Conditions' for Maghreb Unity

PM221631 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 17 Dec 83 p 1

[Ahmed Alaoui editorial: "The Conditions for Building the Maghreb"]

[Excerpts] Mauritania joined the Algerian-Tunisian Treaty of Fraternity and Accord today. We can only welcome this event, which is consistent with our Maghreb ideology. Once again, we would like to express our satisfaction, and Morocco, which has always worked for that ideal, is prepared to give its backing and support to any action taken to strengthen and unite the Maghreb.

But, as we have already said, one must define one's position before uniting. Union can only be achieved with clarity and on the basis of two fundamental principles.

The first is that the Maghreb contains five states: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Mauritania. It can only be formed by respecting the territorial integrity of each member state. To join this union, of which it is a de jure member and — historically and geographically — the main member, Morocco must be regarded as a whole and in its entirety.

If troublemakers are admitted, if a false state and a false people have a place in it, this will only produce a false Maghreb. Indeed, the true Maghreb would be thwarted and its hopes dashed.

The second fundamental point is the abolition of any spirit of hegemony or leadership. The Maghreb can only be built if there is equality among all members of this great family.

WESTERN SAHARA

Polisario Official Comments on Moroccan Offensive

LD222051 Madrid in Spanish to Europe 1900 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Salem Ould Salek, the Polisario spokesman in charge of foreign affairs, told RNE [Spanish National Radio] from Algiers this evening that the Moroccan offensive, involving 25,000 men in the Sahara against the Polisario, must be understood as a move by Hassan II which is linked to the end-of-year date set by the OAU for the holding of a referendum. Here is Ould Salek:

[Begin Ould Salek Recording] This is a military escalation which the king of Morocco has been preparing for the past few months. It was expected because of Morocco's refusal to negotiate a peaceful solution in accordance with OAU agreements, and decisions made by the OAU and the United Nations. [end recording]

In reply to a question from RNE this morning, the press attache at the Moroccan Embassy in Madrid would neither confirm nor deny reports on the offensive.

GABON

Bongo Discusses UDEAC Summit, Leaves for Rabat

AB221012 Libreville Africa No 1 in French
0630 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Speaking yesterday afternoon in Bangui, where he took part in the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa [UDEAC] summit, Chadian President Hissein Habre promised to do his utmost so that the Addis Ababa meeting will result in something concrete.

Meanwhile Gabonese President Omar Bongo, who returned to his country late yesterday afternoon from Bangui, wished good luck to the Chadian people:

[Begin Bongo recording] I wished them good luck and said that as Gabon holds the vice chairmanship of the OAU, we therefore expect everything to go smoothly. I had a discussion with Hissein Habre and advised him to go to the meeting. Well, without anticipating future developments, I believe that our Chadian brothers will meet in Addis Ababa, unless they choose to meet in another country. [end recording]

You have been listening to Gabonese President Bongo, who was taking stock of the Bangui summit before the Gabonese press. He further recalled the step taken by Equatorial Guinea with the view to joining the UDEAC. In fact, Equatorial Guinea became the fifth member state of the UDEAC last Monday.

[Begin Bongo recording] You still remember that in 1982 in Yaounde, when Equatorial Guinea applied to join the UDEAC, we decided to charge the Union's General Secretariat to take steps toward the admission of Equatorial Guinea during the 19th summit. This has just happened and we are happy to see that our Union is becoming greater. We are also expecting Chad's return to the Union because President Hissein Habre has urged the General Secretariat to do everything so that at the 20th anniversary of the UDEAC, scheduled to be celebrated in Brazzaville, Chad will be readmitted into the Union. [end recording]

President Omar Bongo, who returned to Libreville late yesterday afternoon, left the Gabonese capital early this morning for Rabat, where he will be at the side of King Hassan II at the funeral of the late Prince (Nileh) 'Abdallah, which will take place inside the Royal Palace.

ZAIRE

Egyptian Ambassador Says Mubarak To Visit

AB221335 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French
1130 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Excerpt] After the visit of a king to Zaire, a president is also coming here. Egyptian head of state Husni Mubarak will follow the steps of King Juan Carlos of Spain. The exact date of the arrival of the Egyptian leader is not known, but it is only a question of time. The Egyptian ambassador to Zaire had a broad smile on his face while announcing the news yesterday at the end of an audience with Nzondomyo Adokpe Lingo, speaker of the Legislative Council, who was the first to be informed of the visit. According to Ambassador Mustafa Fahmi, the visit should further strengthen the ties of cooperation between Zaire and the country of the pharaohs.

BENIN

Machel Ends Visit, Meets Chad's Goukouni

MB220850 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] President Samora Machel concluded his friendly, working visit to the People's Republic of Benin this morning. He began his trip there yesterday.

A dinner was given in honor of Samora Machel yesterday. Attending the dinner were Mari Alkatiri, the East Timor foreign minister, and Goukouni Oueddei, president of the Transitional National Union Government of Chad, with whom the two presidents held a lengthy exchange of views. During the official speeches, President Samora Machel declared that Goukouni Oueddei is in favor of peace and a peaceful settlement of the Chadian conflict, positions shared by Mozambique.

The Mozambique head of state invited his Beninese counterpart to visit Mozambique, and the invitation has been accepted with pleasure.

Communique Issued

AB221055 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] The Mozambique head of state and the chairman of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] of Chad ended their friendly, working visits to our country today. They left Cotonou this morning following visits of 2 days and 4 days respectively to the People's Republic of Benin. Our illustrious guests were seen off by President Kerekou, and reached some conclusions regarding their visit at the airport's VIP lounge.

Like the Mozambique head of state, the GUNT leader also left our country with feelings of great satisfaction concerning his visit here. This satisfaction is great, because President Goukouni received useful advice that can contribute to a solution of the Chadian conflict. The fundamental reason for their satisfaction is the identity of views between Presidents Samora Machel, Goukouni Oueddei, and Mathieu Kerekou on the various burning issues of the day. This identity of views was also expressed in the press communique which was made public at the end of President Machel's visit to our country. The document was read by Comrade Tiamiou Adjibade, our minister of foreign affairs.

[Begin recording] At the invitation of Comrade Mathieu Kerekou, president of the People's Republic of Benin, His Excellency Comrade Samora Moises Machel, president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, paid a friendly, working visit to the People's Republic of Benin from 20 to 21 December 1983. During the visit, the two heads of state discussed current issues at both the international and African level, and touched upon bilateral cooperation issues as well.

At the bilateral level, the two presidents expressed satisfaction with the excellent relations uniting the two countries. After a full exchange of information on each country's revolutionary experiences, they examined all issues concerning bilateral cooperation and gave instructions to their competent ministers to take steps to further strengthen relations between the two countries.

Concerning the situation in southern Africa, the two heads of state repeated their firm condemnation of the minority racist regime of South Africa. They reaffirmed their solid support of the frontline states, which are the victims of repeated acts of aggression by South Africa. They placed particular emphasis on the reaffirmation of their unflinching support for the struggle of the heroic Namibian people to recover their independence and sovereignty. To this end, they expressed the wish that everything be done to implement UN Security Council Resolution 435. They categorically rejected any linkage between the independence of Namibia and the withdrawal of internationalist Cuban troops from Angola. They also reaffirmed their support of the just struggle being waged by the South African people — under the leadership of the ANC — against the apartheid regime, and in favor of the advent of a democratic society based upon social justice, equality, and fraternity.

Touching on the situation in Chad, the two heads of state, in their belief that the Chadian conflict is an internal one which can be solved only through reconciliation of all the children of that country, stressed the pertinent resolution adopted by the 19th OAU summit on Chad, the call made by the current OAU chairman, and the final communique issued by the 19th OAU summit bureau following its meeting on the subject. They expressed the hope that the meeting of Chadian factions at OAU Headquarters will be able to find a just and lasting solution that will restore unity and peace to Chad.

On the question of Western Sahara, the two heads of state expressed the ardent wish that everything be done to implement the resolutions that were adopted by the OAU at its 19th summit in Addis Ababa and supported by the 38th session of the UN General Assembly. These resolutions call upon the Kingdom of Morocco and the Polisario to engage in direct negotiations that will lead to the holding of a referendum under normal conditions and within the shortest possible time.

Concerning the situation in the Middle East, the two presidents deplored the sordid maneuvers being carried out by international imperialism and Zionism to sow division within the PLO, a movement that has spared no effort to lead a heroic struggle against the enemy for the purpose of allowing the Palestinian people to recover their legitmate and inalienable rights. They condemned the genocide being perpetrated by certain forces, which could lead to the total liquidation of Palestinian resistance. They also expressed their ardent wish for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

In their analysis of the world situation, the two heads of state condemned the subversive maneuvers of international imperialism. They urgently called upon those countries which support peace, justice, and social equality to combine their efforts toward the democratization of international relations and for the advent of a more just and humane world. In this spirit, they condemned the invasion and occupation of East Timor, and demanded the immediate withdrawal of Indonesian troops from that territory.

Examining the issue of the serious economic crisis facing Third World countries, the two presidents deplored the selfish attitude of the rich countries and reaffirmed their support of the Lagos plan of action and the economic declaration of the Seventh Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Nonaligned Countries.

At the end of his visit to the People's Republic of Benin, which took place in an atmosphere of fraternity and friendship, His Excellency Comrade Moises Machel, president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, expressed his most sincere thanks to His Excellency President Mathieu Kerekou for the warm welcome and totally African hospitality which were accorded him and his delegation. The two presidents exchanged invitations to pay official visits to Mozambique and Benin. President Mathieu Kerekou and President Samora Moises Machel accepeted the invitations with pleasure and the dates for the visits will be fixed later.

Issued in Cotonou, Wednesday, 21 December 1983. [end recording]

GHANA

Rawlings Urges Dedication to Government

AB271002 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] The chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, has urged Ghanaians to accord the government the same amount of dedication as they had given to past oppressive regimes to enable it to get the country moving. Flight Lt Rawlings was speaking at a durbar [rally] yesterday to mark workers' day at the University of Ghana, Legon.

He regretted that 90 percent of the time had been wasted because the moral purity that is expected is just not there. As a result of this, the revolutionary process has been slow.

Chairman Rawlings blamed the mass media for not making it possible for the people to know what is happening in the society. He lamented that Ghanaians are not making use of the nation's resources to feed themselves. He stressed that if the people failed to understand their weaknesses, the reactionary class would continue to exploit them. Flight Lt Rawlings noted that a man does not have to attend the university or a college to be able to understand the science or mechanics of the situation around him.

The PNDC chairman regretted that workers do not easily see the extent of damage caused to the country if they are always assured of their monthly pay package. He reminded the workers that power emanates from responsibility. Flight Lt Rawlings emphasized that people must be promoted in their jobs only if they are hard working, and not along personal considerations, to sustain the efforts of the society and avoid demoralizing other workers.

The secretary for information, Miss Joyce Aryee, on her part, asked workers to use their power to do something to raise the quality of life of the people. She called for a collective effort by all Ghanaians to ensure that the country gets where they want it to go.

Finance Minister Delivers Speech on Economy

AB220750 Accra Domestic Service in English 1945 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Speech by Finance and Economic Planning Secretary Kwesi Botchway on the state of the nation's economy — live]

[Text] Good evening, fellow countrymen. I would like to begin by apologizing to all of you for the delay in commencing this program. The year 1983 is coming to a close. By the end of December, this month, it will be 8 months since we launched the 1983 budget which laid out the financial and monetary arrangements for implementing the government's program of reconstruction and development announced in December 1982. So it is fitting that we should at this time review with the utmost frankness and objectivity the performance of the economy in 1983 and the outlook for 1984.

Although we have become accustomed to seeing our economic and financial problems as being peculiar to Ghana, it is important to constantly remind ourselves that the world economy as a whole is in crisis, and that this affects us quite directly and detrimentally. The average price of a ton of cocoa on the world market in 1983 was just over a thousand pounds, that is, a third of the world market price in the mid-seventies. Between 1978 and 1981, the so-called developing countries which produce no oil recorded a current account deficit of about $66 billion. That is to say, the total foreign exchange earnings fell short of the current commitments for imports, interest charges, and so on, by a whole $66 billion. Of this, more than one-third was attributable to the rise in interest payments alone; another one-third to the drop in the prices of their exports, and about another third to oil price increases.

When the United States decides to raise interest rates by just 1 percent, this increases the debt burden of our country by a whole $2 billion. In 1975, Ghana spent $95.5 million to import 1.09 million metric tons of crude oil. But in 1982, the oil bill was $320 million, that is, over 50 percent of our export earnings, even though we imported the same quantity of oil as we did in 1975.

Virtually all the countries in this subregion, including those who produce oil, have over the past year applied to the International Monetary Fund for balance of payment support. In our case, the foreign exchange crises caused by this fast deteriorating external environment have been aggravated by the fact that we have received a lower net inflow of external assistance than other African countries in the same income group. Over the past decade, the flow of external resources to Ghana has averaged $17.60 per head while the average for other African countries like Ghana was $45.30. On the other hand, official development assistance to Ghana over the past decade was about half of that provided to other countries in Africa.

Countrymen, in talking about these unfavorable external factors, I do not mean to downplay or apologize for our internal management problems of the past. These facts, which are incontrovert-

ible, are meant to remind us that our economy is not an island that is affected by external factors outside our control. Between 1970 and 1980, the average Ghanaian's real income dropped by over one-third. By the end of 1981, we were producing on the average about one-half of everything we produced as a nation in 1970. In 1969-70, we produced 403,000 metric tons of cocoa; but by 1980-81, this had fallen to 225,000 metric tons. In 1970, we produced 19,955 kilograms of gold, but by 1981, gold output had fallen to 10,595.3. The production of bauxite fell from 336,000 tons in 1979 to only 181,000 in 1981.

As the economic performance deteriorated, as production collapsed, enormous incentives were provided for distributing the little that we produced, and everybody began to steal and cheat a little to survive in a regime of high prices which culminated in an all-high inflation rate of 115 percent in 1981. But quietly and imperceptibly, the economy was dying, and the crash was bound to come if corrective measures were not taken.

In 1982, thanks to a continuing drought, severe foreign exchange constraints and low productivity, the decline in output continued. In fact, without the $95.8 million interest-free credit we got from Libya in 1982, the economic performance for 1982 would have been worse still. It was to correct a whole decade of economic mismanagement and declining output in a hostile external environment that the government launched the recovery program, first in a form of the 1982 December statement, and then in the April 1983 budget. What were the objectives of the program, and what has happened since it was launched?

The most controversial aspect of the economic recovery program was the adjustment in the exchange rate of the cedi. And here it is interesting to note that criticism was directed no so much at the bonuses paid to exporters — everyone, without exception, was agreed that the level of the bonuses was adequate and necessary — but at the surcharges. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning received numerous appeals from various sections of the public recommending a downward revision of the surcharges. What everybody forgot was that the monies that the bank paid in bonuses to exporters or earners of foreign exchange had to be collected from the surcharges, and that the surcharge level had to be at least adequate for the volume of bonus payments envisaged under the program. And further, that if this were not done, the banks would incur unsustainable losses. What the critics also forgot was that the surcharges were not revenues to government. In fact, not 1 pesewa of the surcharges came to the government as revenue.

Countrymen, in order to put the debate over the exchange rate adjustment in its proper perspective, without any heat or passion, it is important for each and every one of us to ask ourselves a very simple question: Did you ever take any foreign exchange to the Bank of Ghana to exchange at 2.75 cedis to a dollar when the regime was 2.75 cedis per dollar? Would you today change your foreign exchange at the bank for 2.75 cedis to a dollar? If when the rate was 2.75 cedis to a dollar you did not, and were not disposed to changing your foreign exchange officially at 2.75 cedis a dollar; if you were not willing to sell your dollars or convertible currency to the state at that rate, you should ask yourselves why. Why should the state sell foreign exchange to you at 2.75 cedis to a dollar when you, by your rational judgement, knew that it was simply foolish to surrender yours at that value?

While these questions are posed and answered honestly, we begin to appreciate the rationale for the official position of the exchange rate under the recovery program. The setting of the exchange rate to our currency is our sovereign choice. We can decide tomorrow morning that the rate is 1 cedi to the U.S. dollar. But if this rate is not backed by our production and earnings of foreign exchange, no rational man — national or non-national — and indeed no foreign country or investor will investin this country. The export sector will collapse and will surely reap the unavoidable disasters. The truth is that as a result of the steady decline in our economy, which we all admit, the value of our national currency has been debased and something should have been done about it very long ago. Particularly because we are sandwiched between a high currency francophone zone. To refuse to admit this is simply to bury one's head under sand.

But then there are those who admit that the exchange rate change was necessary but argue that it was too steep. To argue in this vein is to suggest that the level of the adjustment is simply a matter of good will and personal sensitivity. It is as if to say that if one is a good and kindhearted man, then one chooses a low rate of exchange. But surely, if the matter were so simple, no policy maker would (?spurn) a softer option and opt for a harsher one simply to demonstrate one's courage. Our point of departure must be to determine what rate of exchange would enable those who earn foreign exchange for the country to cover the cedi cost of their operations and to make reasonable profits, assuming a reasonable level of efficiency and production.

At the other extreme, there are those who admit that the level of exchange rate adjustment is acceptable, but that in order to avoid increases in the prices of goods produced with foreign exchange, the state must subsidize those goods. But countrymen, the state can only subsidize production with monies that are collected from revenue sources. And if the revenues do not come because taxable incomes are being hidden, no subsidies are possible. Besides, we must ask ourselves: Who gets the benefits of the subsidy?

The adjustment in the exchange rate has made significant improvement in the financial position of the export sector. Marketing Board, which over three seasons 1979-80 to 1981-82 had accumulated losses of over 7.4 billion cedis and paid no revenues to government for 2 years, was this year for the first time able to meet its current expenditure and also to pay its tax liability to government of 1.2 billion cedis. The State Gold Mining Corporation, which had accumulated over 100 million cedis in debts, is now covering a major portion of its operational costs from its own earnings. Apart from these modest improvements in the financial position of the export sector, the revision in the exchange rate has improved our credit worthiness in the international circles and improved our access to foreign financial assistance which we need desparately at this time to support our recovery efforts. Since April 1983 we have received over $600 million in commitments from multilateral agencies, mainly the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the IMF, and the African Development Bank, quite apart from the $150 million which donors pledged at the recent consultative group meeting on Ghana held in Paris.

If we are to avoid slipping back into the problems associated with an unrealistic exchange rate, if we are to avoid putting millions of cedis into pockets of the very parasites we are fighting against, it is important that we maintain a flexible exchange rate policy and make periodic adjustments in the exchange rate on the basis of an index reflecting the difference between the rate of inflation in Ghana and those in neighboring countries, and in particular Ghana's major trading partners. If we do not increase production and raise productivity, then upward adjustments in the exchange rate will become inevitable. When we report for work at 1100 and close at 1500, with little work done, when we sit idle in the cities and leave the aging and tired old men and women in the rural areas to produce less and less food, we must remember that we are contributing directly to the upward revision in the exchange rate, and in effect to the increase in the prices of everything produced with foreign exchange.

When the prices of petroleum products were increased, many complained that they were too high. But even at these prices, there is still a subsidy of over 800 million cedis on oil. And that is money which could be used to provide potable water to the over 50 percent of our people who live in rural areas and drink muddy water and die of curable infection. Moreover, we must ask ourselves again who benefit form these subsidies? Out of 76,692 passenger-carrying and haulage vehicles in the country, a whole 46.9 percent are private vehicles. In the city of Accra, 58 percent of the 36,390 vehicles are private. In the meantime, the majority of our people in the rural areas walk miles and miles each day on their undernourished limbs. When we maintain low prices for services such as water, electricity, we must remember that we are retarding our development and driving the organizations charged with providing these services into bankruptcy which we then seek to avert by giving them the resources which should go into production.

The Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation, for instance, is presently totally bankrupt. But they produce water at the average cost of at least 7 pesewas a gallon of water and sell it to the privileged few for less than one-third of a pesewa. In the meantime, many, many users have connected pipes without any authorization to their houses and even to commercial farms and are able to obtain water, treated water, treated with chemicals imported with foreign exchange, to irrigate their farms without paying even the one-third of a pesewa which is charged presently by the Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation.

If the water tariffs are raised to enable the Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation to improve and expand its services, people would surely complain again. But what is the price of not doing so and is it socially justifiable?

The recent price increases announced for maize and rice have also attracted the usual criticism, but the question we must ask ourselves is: Why did these prices go up? The Food Distribution Corporation, which has borrowed over 100 million cedis to purchase rice and maize, bought the maize at 1,800 cedis per maxi bag from the farmer. It spent about 30 cedis for empty sacks. 70 cedis for drying and storage, 110 cedis on transportation, 35 cedis for handling, 102.25 cedis for overhead, 53.68 cedis for losses, 418.18 cedis in interest charges. With an allowance of 20 percent for their profit so they can stay in business and pay their workers, that brings the price of a maxi bag of maize to 3,142.93 cedis, rounded to the price of 3,200 cedis announced recently.

It costs the average farmer over 1,400 cedis to produce that maxi bag of maize. He pays over 100 cedis a day for labor. So he must be paid a price that will encourage him to stay in production so that the food we eat in the cities continues to be available even in the quantities that we have today. But while the farmer pays over 100 cedis for labor per day, there are millions of idle hands in our cities and towns. If we want the price of maize to go down, countrymen, we must increase its production. It is not possible to hold down production through idleness and low productivity and then cheat the farmer by paying him prices that are not remunerative, because if we do, that farmer will quite simply not produce the maize or the rice again next year.

The assumptions behind the economic recovery program are sound, but if we do not change our attitude toward work, the program will begin to look more and more like a purely monetary and physical program. With rainfall figures, which this year are the worst in 20 years of our history, this year's food production has been particularly disastrous. The shortfall for maize alone is more than about 300,000 metric tons. Losses to farmers are staggering. If farmers are not paid remunerative prices, the situation will be even worse next year. The Cocoa Marketing Board, for instance, has estimated that next year's cocoa crop will be no more than 150,000 metric tons, that is, 30,000 tons lower than last year's crop, which itself was very low compared to what we were doing the the sixties.

Meanwhile, in some parts of the country, cocoa farms are overgrown with bush. If this trend continues, if this forecast comes true, and our export earnings decline, we cannot solve the problem by selling our foreign exchange more cheaply. The exchange rate will surely go up. The choice is ours, we can avoid it.

For the past 8 months, one of the problems we have had has been with the slow utilization of import licenses issued. For the past 3 years, many of our importers have been complaining of the foreign exchange constraints. If you went around all over the country and asked producers, manufacturers what their problem was, the response was uniform — import licenses.

This year, as a result of the program of recovery and the efforts that we are making, some foreign exchange became available and import licenses were issued to priority sectors. Some importers would actually go for the import license and then without even going to their bankers to find out if they can obtain credit to enable them to establish letters of credit, they simply took fright just at the sight of the face value of the licenses and did nothing. They waited for months, and then with some urging they went back to their bankers. Their bankers would ask them to submit their cash flow. They would go back to their offices and take their time in preparing this cash flow.

Meanwhile, time is lost and the import duties which we expect from the goods that are to be imported with these licenses do not come, and our revenue projections are not realized. Not only that, the goods that are to be manufactured with the raw materials to be imported under the licenses also do not get produced. At the

end of the day, our revenue projections do not materialize and the government is unable to discharge its obligations under the budget.

We have talked over the past year or two about the sheer waste in government expenditure including the payment of wages and salaries to nonexistent workers. In the revised 1981-82 budget published in May 1982, we called on all establishments to submit to the Ministry of Finance and Planning their nominal rolls, vetted by the local WDC [Workers Defense Committee] to ensure that ghost names were expunged from the nominal rolls. Countrymen, as late as just a month ago, it is regrettable that some establishments, after 1 and 1/2 years of waiting, had still not submitted the nominal rolls, and that workers in these establishments who were required to see to it that these nominal rolls were prepared have somehow not managed to do so. The result is that we are still paying salaries and wages to some employees who simply do not exist. Even the nominal rolls from some establishments that were submitted, duly vetted by local WDC's, were still found to contain ghost names.

For instance, it was recently discovered at a PWD [Public Works Department] work station in Tema that out of 120 workers on a certified nominal roll, as many as 79 were ghosts. Countrymen, when these incidents recur, when the state sinks money into just wasteful expenditure, we thereby deny ourselves resources that should be put to more productive use. It is not possible for the Ministry of Finance and Planning to go around all working establishments to find out how many workers actually exist in these establishments. It is the responsibility of workers in these establishments to ensure not only that the nominal rolls are prepared and submitted on due days but also that the ghost names are expunged. For if this is not done the cost to the nation will be socialized and borne by everybody.

We have over the past year been getting complaints from working people about the low rate of remuneration, the low level of wages and salaries, which we must all admit are low but which we can only increase if we are able to raise production. But even as we complain about low remuneration in the public services, we continue to retain at least 25 percent redundancy in the civil service and in most public corporations. Quite obviously, so long as we retain these idle hands in the civil service and in the corporations, and with productivity as low as it is, it is quite simply not possible to increase wages and incomes.

If you travel or go around most offices today, you are sure to find the most blatant signs of waste. In some establishments you will find furniture, used furniture, just stacked away and blocked away with plywood instead of being repaired or at least being used for firewood, while the same establishments apply constantly to the Ministry of Finance and Planning for increased allocation for furniture. In some workers' canteens today, there is so much cheating and waste that monies that are voted for workers' canteens end up in the pockets of cooks, supervisors, those who operate these canteens. In the result, the activity that should be supervised by workers to ensure that at least we get the full value of the monies budgeted for feeding is not done. Obviously, if this delinquency is not checked, it means we will continue to make these expenditure outlays, we will not achieve the desired results, we will be making payments for services that we do not get.

In the coming year, it is not in our interest that this malfeasance should be tolerated. Accordingly, unless we receive nominal rolls duly vetted from all establishments, unless we receive positive suggestions from all establishments as to how they intend to deal with the redundancy problem, we will simply have to operate on the basis of some across the board cuts in the work force. It is not our intention to quite simply throw people out in the streets; on the other hand, we ought to recognize that it is not in our interest, it is not in the interest of the working people — those who at least work and labor — it is not in the interest of the vast majority of our people who live in the rural areas and still suffer abject poverty that this redundancy be carried into 1984. It is our responsibility to ensure that we truly evolve a mobilization program that would ensure that under-utilized labor in our public services, labor which is to be paid at the end of each month, is harnessed and mobilized for greater production, particularly of food.

Again, over the past year, we have received numerous complaints from working people, people's shops, about the government's alleged wavering on the principle of people's shops. But what really are the facts? Countrymen, we have spent the last 5 years at least trying to evolve a good and fruitful distribution system. To this day, we have not been able to evolve one.

What seems to be the problem? It is quite simple. There is not enough to distribute. And so long as there is not enough to distribute, no system of distribution will ensure absolute equity and justice to everybody. Additionally, the problem has been that we are distributing the little bit that there is through people's shops to workers in their work places, to recognized institutions, teachers, policemen, schools, and very little in fact to the rural areas and to the commercial houses.

For instance, from January to November 1983, of all the rice that we have imported and distributed, a full 69 percent has gone to people's shops. Sugar: 58 percent has gone to people's shops. Twenty-four percent of rice has gone to institutions and yet 7 percent has been distributed through commercial houses. Soap: 55 percent has been distributed through people's shops, 32 percent to institutions, and only 13 percent through commercial houses. In spite of these figures, the complaint is made repeatedly that somehow the government is bending over backward to accomodate commercial houses and distribute the goods through commercial houses and to the detriment of the real advancement and development of the people's shops.

But as you can see from these figures, the real facts are very different. The problem is that if we decide to set up people's shops as indeed we must, if we decide to implement the policy that the government announced in the economic recovery program, then it is the duty and responsibility of all working people, of all people in the communities that are supposed to be served by the people's shops, to ensure that the shops are properly set up, that adequate financing is arranged, that they have warehousing facilities, that

they do not delay the evacuation, the prompt payment for, and distribution of goods when they become available.

As of 1 September 1983 for instance, the GNTC [Ghana National Trading Corporation] has been holding goods worth 11 million cedis since May 1983. UAC [United African Company], Kingsway, S.D. Karam, and other commercial houses have been holding about 60 million cedis worth of goods over this period. These stocks have been held up, as I have indicated, since May 1983 for and on behalf of people's shops. Whatever the reasons for the delay in lifting the goods are, it is quite clear that this performance is not satisfactory and yet when the goods don't flow into these shops the government gets blamed for not making sure that they get to the shops. When, in order to get the goods removed after inordinate delay, commercial houses are called in to assist, this leads to misunderstanding even though the intention is to ensure that the goods actually get to the people.

Countrymen, all those who are committed to the development of the people's shops must wake up to these realities because unless they do so, the results, these dismal results, will persist and then it will be no use looking for scapegoats because they will be in our own selves. Again, recently the Ministry of Trade has released goods worth 788 million cedis — rice, maize, sugar, milk, cooking oil, and soap. The government is waiting for the Ghana National Procurement Agency [GNPA] to pay in revenues at least 330 million cedis to enable the government to discharge its obligations under the budget including its obligations to working people. But the GNPA is unable to do so because most of the shops simply do not have the financing to pay for the goods when they are delivered. So the government must wait for the financing to be mobilized so that the GNPA can pay the government the 330 million cedis back to support the budget. But while we wait, there is impatience on the part of working people. But who is to blame?

Countrymen, the recovery program, the assumption that it makes, can indeed be realized, but unless we begin to arrest the increasing deterioration in our economic performance, the year 1984 will be even more difficult. For 1984 it is estimated that our total foreign exchange earnings would come to a little over $490 million or so. On the other hand, we need to bring in imports worth at least $1.2 billion. With the effort that we are making it is possible, and we are seeing improved response on the part of the international community to our foreign assistance request. But with all the aid we are getting and will be getting if our productivity remains where it is, if we retain the idle hands in our workplaces, in the factories, in the offices, then the assistance we will be getting together with our own foreign exchange earnings will do nothing or very little for us.

I believe, as I am sure we all do, that the potential, the very vast potential of this country for redevelopment can be realized. In the past few months many people have expressed some worries about whether and what sort of conditions are being imposed on us for the foreign assistance that we are getting. The conditions for the assistance that we get can be ameliorated if we increase our output. No country is going to tax its own people to dole out assistance to us while we maintain the inefficiency in our production. We announced, as part of the economic recovery program, a program of institutional reforms in banking, in import-export trade, in the transportation sector. It is our responsibility to ensure that these reforms are carried out in accordance with our own level of preparedness.

We had announced for instance that all official vehicles and buses will be pooled together to bus workers to their workplace. But when we discovered that most of these buses themselves needed spare parts and that without their rehabilitation they would deteriorate even further if they were pulled into a common pool, some concessions had to be made to delay implementation of the program.

It is important for us to avoid dogmas in the implementation of announced policies. For instance, with the peoples' shops, it makes very little sense to insist on renting some ramshackle premises as people's shops just next door to a GNTC shop, fully furnished with deep freezers, shelves, and workers who are being paid but selling nothing. In situations like this, surely our own interest demands that we show some flexibility and good sense in implementing these policies. We must ask ourselves in implementing the people's shops proposal what we are supposed to do, for instance, for the thousands of workers employed by GNTC who are paid regularly every month even though they sell nothing.

Countrymen, I believe that with proper mobilization, the right encouragement to the primary organs of the revolution, and accepting preparedness by all of us including our revolutionary cadres to admit mistakes, to indulge in self-criticism, with the proper mobilization effort and the support that we are getting from the international communities, both West and East, it is possible to realize the aspirations set out in the program. I hope that the year 1984 will see certain reverses in this downward trend and will see the cessation of the idleness, the foot-dragging, and the temporizing that we see in all sections of our community. Thank you.

PNDC Announces Changes in University Organization

AB220710 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Dec 83

["Speech news flash" from the Office of the Provisional National Defense Council in Accra — read by announcer]

[Excerpts] 1. The Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] has directed the universities to call for applications for readmission from all interested students who do not share the stand of the NUGS [National Union of Ghanaian Students] leadership as declared in May this year. Such applications should be submitted by 21 January 1984. The council has also directed that steps be taken to strengthen the staffing division of the universities by immediate recall of lecturers whose leave periods have expired and further recruitment where feasible. The secretary for education is to assist the universities in procuring minimum logistic requirements for their proper functioning. Government further directs that university administrations should take the initiative to make the necessary arrangements for reopening and that the students should bear in mind the known conditions of prices nationally and internationally.

2. The PNDC has appointed a new deputy to the secretary for education with special responsibility for higher education. He is Dr S.O. Asiama.

3. The PNDC has appointed the following as chairman of the new university council. They are Rev Dr S.G. Nimako, University of Ghana, Legon; Dr R.K.A. Gardiner, University of Science and Technology; Nana Kobina Nketsia, University of Cape Coast. The other two PNDC nominess on each council are Prof Kwame Arhin and Mrs Susan des Bordes, University of Ghana, Legon; Emil Dadson and Mrs Martha Tamakloe, University of Science and Technology; Mr de Graft-Aidoo and Mr J. Lukwada Allan, University of Cape Coast.

4. Meanwhile, the PNDC in consultation with the newly appointed bodies is considering proposals arising from a seminar held at the University of Science and Technology and other sources recommending further structural changes.

5. The new council is asked to lead the universities in the development of a new productive orientation in accordance with the statutes which established the universities as well as the directive principle of state policy as set out in PNDC Law 42. To this end, the PNDC had previously communicated to the universities detailed proposals regarding the reorganization of the universities to play a more effective role in national reconstruction.

6. The registrar of the University of Ghana, Legon, E.A.K. Edzii, has been retired with immediate effect and E.O. Dodoo appointed acting registrar. The registrar of the University of Science and Technology, A.S.Y. Andoh, and the deputy registrar, M.K. Opoku, have also been retired. L.I. Andoh is appointed acting registrar.

7. The PNDC has constituted an 16-member National Education Commission under the chairmanship of Dr Evans Anfom. The PNDC is also inviting Chinua Achebe, Ngogi wa Thiongo, and (Paulo Frery), distinguished international writers and educationists, to participate in the work of the National Education Commission.

8. A National Service Board under the National Service Act has also been constituted as follows: chairman, S. Ofosuhere; members, Mrs Eugenia Asmah, Rt Rev Archbishop Dery, S. Wood, R.J. Mettle-Nunoo. A representative of the Ghana Armed Forces is also to be on the board in addition to the director of the national service scheme, a representative of the WDC [Workers Defense Committee] national service scheme, and a representative of the national service personnel.

GUINEA

Prime Minister Receives DPRK Delegation

AB221311 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1945 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] At 1700 today, Dr Lansana Beavogui, member of the National Political Bureau and prime minister in charge of planning and statistics, received the DPRK delegation which is concluding its 1 and 1/2-month working visit to our country. The eight-member delegation, led by Han Ki-hwan, vice chairman of the State Education Committee, held working sessions in the federations of Kankan, Kindia, Kissidogo, Farana, Sorokaya, and Conakry.

The working visit falls within the framework of the plans to build an agronomic institute in our country. Following its extensive tour of a number of federations in our party-state, the DPRK delegation made a point of expressing its satisfaction to the prime minister at the warm reception it has been accorded. The group also thanked Comrade Ahmed Sekou Toure, the supreme leader of the revolution and president.

In his reply, the prime minister paid militant tribute to the great leader President Kim Il-song, and expressed Guinea's willingness to develop frank and loyal cooperation with the DPRK.

During its stay, the DPRK delegation met with senior cadres from the three ministries in charge of education and culture, as well as those from district agro-pastoral farms and the Ministry of Agriculture.

NIGERIA

'Religious Extremists' Sentenced in Kaduna

AB221205 Lagos NAN in English 1148 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Kaduna, 22 Dec (NAN) — Four persons described as religious extremists were yesterday in Kaduna sentenced to two years imprisonment each for preaching dangerous Islamic doctrines. The convicted persons were: Malam Umaru Garuba, Malam Haliru Bature, Malam Suleiman Bature and Malam Sada Bature, all of Kurwa village in Dutsin-Ma local government area of Kaduna State.

According to the prosecution, the men were members of a certain Islamic sect called Millatu Ibrahim Hanifa Antakima Lillahi (The Path of Ibrahim) which believed that any Moslem who wore a wrist watch, listened to radio or television or took medicine when sick or participated in congregational prayers was an infidel or kafir.

In his ruling, the chief magistrate, Alhaji Salifullahi Coomassie, observed that the accused persons were preaching similar doctrines as the late Mohammadu Marwa Maitatsine.

Two other persons were discharged for want of evidence.

ANGOLA

Defense Communique Reports RSA Attack on Caiundo

MB230626 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Communique issued by the Ministry of Defense on 22 December]

[Text] The South African air and ground forces continue to violate the borders of the People's Republic of Angola, committing acts of aggression against the civilian population of towns and cities in the Huila, Cunene, and Cuando Cubango Provinces.

Our forces have been fighting against the invaders to repel yet another shameful act of aggression. Thus, during the bombardment of the town of Caiundo by the racist air force, its ground forces attempted to attack the town by land but were repelled by the prompt response of our military forces. The enemy left the following on the battlefield:

A total of 6 dead, 13 light machineguns, 3 MK-21 machine guns, four Racal-921 radios, one Racal-352 radios, 3 rocket launchers, one 60-mm mortar, 18 FN magazines, 1 Unimog vehicle, 1 night observation device, rucksacks and other military equipment, a number of Angolan maps, and an assortment of documents, including identification of the dead. Peter Kangenge, a Namibian soldier belonging to the South African Army, was captured.

Further details about the results of this operation, particularly the prisoner, will be given in due course.

Office of the minister of defense of the People's Republic of Angola, 22 December 1983.

[Signed] Colonel Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale, minister.

'Hundreds' of Civilians Killed

MB230720 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] The People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] are continuing to inflict increasingly heavier blows on the enemy which is attempting to destabilize the Angolan revolution.

In the first week of this month, the Angolan combatants carried out follow-up operations in Huila, Huambo, Bie, and Cuanza Sul during which they killed a further 23 counterrevolutionaries and captured another 8, in addition to seizing large quantities of materiel and military equipment.

In view of the victorious FAPLA actions against UNITA, the South African Army has rushed to the aid of its proteges and launched air and ground attacks in the regions of Mulondo in Huila Province, Caiundo in Cuando Cubango, and Cahama in Cunene. These attacks have resulted in the death of hundreds of civilians and the destruction of hospitals, schools, and housing facilities.

BOTSWANA

Results of Border Clash Investigation Reported

MB221611 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] It has now been established that the uniformed and armed man who was shot and killed by a Botswana Defence Force [BDF] patrol near Romokgwebane on Tuesday morning this week was a Zimbabwean National Army [ZNA] soldier. A release from the Office of the President says the dead soldier was part of a six-man Zimbabwean patrol that accidentally crossed the border that morning.

High-level delegations from Botswana and Zimbabwe met at Plumtree yesterday to discuss the incident. The two delegations visited the site of the incident and questioned the leaders of the respective BDF and ZNA patrols. The release says the incident was regretted, and it was agreed that the respective armies should exercise more care in future.

In a related report, AFP says a communique from the Government of Zimbabwe ascertains that its army patrol had not deliberately violated the border. AFP acknowledges that the communique is the first admission by Harare that its troops had crossed into Botswana, although similar incidents have been reported.

LESOTHO

RSA-Backed 'Animal' Mercenaries Threaten Country

MB230550 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] The use of mercenaries in the African political scene is not a new phenomenon. Mercenaries were used in the Congo to suppress the political wishes of the indigenous people of that country. Mercenaries were used in Mozambique and Angola in order to thwart the political aspirations of these nations. Mercenaries were used in Zimbabwe in order to deny the Zimbabwean people their right to self-determination. In recent months mercenaries were used in the Seychelles in an attempt to topple the legitimate government of President Albert Rene.

Today, Lesotho is faced with the threat of the soldiers of fortune. Governments that resort to the use of mercenaries in their attempts to topple the government of other countries do so after having failed to diplomatically or politically dominate the victim countries. In the case of Lesotho, these attempts included the infiltration of agents into all walks of life in this country.

Perhaps the pick of South African direct intervention of the internal affairs of Lesotho was the formation in Botswana, with the help of the former BOSS chief General Van den Bergh of the so-called Lesotho Liberation Army [LLA]. Through this gang of political bandits, South Africa was able to carry out her policy of destabilization with impunity, hiding behind the excuse that

Lesotho has her own internal political problems. Today, when the LLA has disintegrated, when it has crumbled in the face of rejection by Basotho, today when these evil attempts have resulted in the unity of the Basotho nation and its total support for its national political leadership under the guidance of Dr Leabua Jonathan, those who wish to see Basotho collapse have resorted to the employment of the soldiers of fortune.

Mercenaries are known to have no particular political commitment except love for money and racism. They are known to be lower than animals in their behavior. These are the barbarians that those who wish to force this country to subdue itself to their whim are now preparing to send into this land. Again, with the help of God, we shall overcome.

MOZAMBIQUE

Eight of Kidnapped Soviet Geologists Freed

NC230750 Paris AFP in English 0729 GMT 23 Dec 83

[From the "News Briefs"]

[Text] Maputo [dateline as received] — Eight Soviet geologists kidnapped in northern Mozambique last August have been freed, two have died in captivity and 14 are still being held by South African-backed Mozambique rebels, a Soviet Embassy official said here.

Machel Returns to Maputo After Benin Visit

MB220913 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] President Samora Machel returned yesterday to Maputo after having made a friendly and working visit to the People's Republic of Benin. At the Maputo International Airport, the Mozambique head of state was greeted by Frelimo Party Political Bureau member Marcelino dos Santos and members of the Council of Ministers.

A joint communique issued in Cotonou disclosed that in their closed-door meetings the two heads of state discussed several issues of the current African situation and the cooperation between Mozambique and Benin.

We must recall that President Samora Machel visited Benin after having participated in Bissau in the summit of the heads of state and government of the five Portuguese-speaking African countries: Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe.

Maputo Denies Soviet Aid Cut, Adviser Withdrawal

LD221424 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 1300 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Mozambique has denied reports that Soviet advisers and aid workers from various places in the country were assembling in Maputo in preparation for their possible withdrawal from Mozambique.

The Portuguese news agency NOTICIAS DE PORTUGAL this morning quoted a Mozambique Government source as dismissing the report as groundless and as part of a campaign centered in Paris, according to which Moscow is about to cut its aid to Mozambique as well as the supply of oil products and food.

A Mozambique Government official spokesman explained that Mozambique has received refined products from the Soviet Union for the first time this year, and that a Soviet ship is now unloading fuel at a Mozambican port. But the spokesman denied that the Soviet Union was supplying any food to Mozambique.

Communique Issued on Soviet Labor Group's Visit

MB222005 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] A Soviet trade union delegation has been in Mozambique for talks with officials of the Mozambique Workers Organization [OTM]. The delegation led by Sergey Belyayev visited a number of sectors, including industrial sites and a training school for the OTM.

The two delegations released a joint communique today in which they condemn the apartheid system in South Africa and the operations of South African-backed bandits in Mozambique. They stressed the need to work together in the struggle for peace, justice, and freedom.

Machel Calls For S. African 'Modus Vivendi'

MB221809 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] President Samora Machel said on Tuesday that this week's talks between Mozambican and South African ministers were decisive and crucial to Southern Africa. The talks are held at a time of growing tension in the region. The Government of Lesotho warned this week that mercenaries based in South Africa were preparing a coup attempt in Maseru. Last weekend South African warplanes launched bombing raids against several parts of Angola. In Mozambique armed bandits continue to spread terror with weapons supplied by South Africa.

Announcing this week's talks between Mozambique and South Africa, President Samora pointed out that one does not choose one's neighbor. They may dislike each other intensely, but states in the region should not attack each other and should not serve as bases for the destabilization of each other's territory. As the president put it, there has to be a modus vivendi in southern Africa, and this week's talks would be crucial in [words indistinct].

Mozambique, Angola, and Lesotho cannot stop attacking South Africa, because they never started. The three independent countries are not responsible for the instability in South Africa and Namibia. The African National Congress [ANC] of South Africa was created in 1912 and has been struggling against racism since then. That was before Samora Machel, Jose

Eduardo dos Santos, and Leabua Jonathan were born. Similarly, SWAPO of Namibia began its independence war long before the independence of Angola. For South Africa today to blame independent states for the insurrection of the South African and Namibian people is patently absurd. In the case of the ANC, the South African Government cannot make it disappear by pretending that it is simply external. The ANC has been rooted in South Africa for more than 70 years. It is a part of South African life. The ANC does not need bases in other countries, and there are none in Mozambique.

Therefore, to achieve the modus vivendi that Samora Machel spoke of (?calls for) a new attitude on the part of South African authorities. This attitude would reflect an awareness that aggression against neighboring states is not going to extend the life of apartheid. The struggle against apartheid is waged from within. As this week's meeting in Swaziland shows, Mozambique is always ready to talk. But, as the South Africans were told in advance, Mozambique was not going there to recognize apartheid nor to destroy the ANC.

NAMIBIA

Surrender of SWAPO Members in Caprivi Viewed

MB221558 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] A total of 122 SWAPO members have given themselves up in the Caprivi since an amnesty was proclaimed in South-West Africa in April 1980. The commander of Sector 70, Colonel Henry (Swanepoel), told our military correspondent during a visit to Katima Mulilo that more Caprivians would have surrendered by now had they not been forced by SWAPO to remain in Angola. He said it had emerged from accounts by the SWAPO members who had returned to the Caprivi that there was fierce discrimination within the organization against non-Ovambos. Col (Swanepoel) added that relations between the South African Defense Force and the Zambian and Botswana authorities along the East Caprivi border had improved considerably and were now, as he put it, completely relaxed.

SOUTH AFRICA

Official Comments on Possible UN Sanctions

MB221549 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] South Africa's permanent representative at the United Nations, Mr Kurt von Schirnding, says South Africa's attitude and conduct at the United Nations have gained the respect of many countries, and South Africa has without doubt many friends and allies at the world body.

Mr Von Schirnding said in a television program that the possibility remained, however, that sanctions might be imposed against South Africa. Overconfidence would be wrong, as most of the countries within the framework of the organization automatically voted against South Africa. Mr Von Schirnding said the Soviet Union and its allies were using the United Nations as a tool against South Africa, although this action was strongly opposed by several Western countries.

Portuguese Role in RSA-Mozambique Talks Detailed

MB221220 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 22 Dec 83 p 1

[By Jose Caetano]

[Text] Tuesday's sensitive talks between Mozambique and South Africa in Swaziland were given the go-ahead two weeks ago when a Portuguese special envoy was flown secretly to meet President Samora Machel at his holiday cottage.

The diplomatic shuttle led to South Africa's foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, being told during a second Lisbon stopover that President Machel had agreed to talks.

Yesterday, President Machel told journalists in Guinea-Bissau — where he attended a summit of Portuguese-speaking African countries — the talks at the Royal Guest House in Swaziland's Ezulwini Valley were "decisive and crucial for life in Southern Africa."

In Maputo, well-informed sources said President Machel was insistent there must be no "linkage of status" between the so-called Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) and the African National Congress in the negotiations.

Mozambique regards the MNR as "South African-supported bandits with no ideology" while maintaining that its support of African National Congress is confined to political, diplomatic and humanitarian aid. Mozambique has denied repeatedly that there are ANC bases in its territory, despite South African scepticism.

Now the talks are over, the dramatic story of two weeks of intensive, behind-the-scenes, diplomatic exchanges — involving Portugal, South Africa and Mozambique — can be told. It began when a special envoy of the Portuguese prime minister, Dr Mario Soares, arrived in Maputo with a suggested agenda for a possible meeting.

His arrival followed talks in Lisbon between Mr Pik Botha and the Portuguese premier and his foreign minister, Dr Jaime Gama.

Information received in Maputo last week identified the Portuguese envoy as Dr Matos Proenca, director general of political affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a confidant of Dr Soares.

Dr Proenca was flown to Pemba, the capital of the far northern province of Cabo Delgado, to meet President Machel, who was spending a three-week holiday in a cottage in the city outskirts.

Immediately after the meeting, President Machel summoned some of his most senior ministers, among them Major General Jacinto Soares Veloso, minister in the presidency for economic affairs, Colonel Jose Oscar Monteiro, minister of justice, and

Major General Joaquim Alberto Chissano, minister of foreign affairs.

All three are members of Frelimo's 11-man Political Bureau, and have been part of Mozambican delegations to two previous meetings with South Africa. During the Pemba meeting President Machel is known to have reviewed the results of past meetings with South Africa, drafted position papers for Tuesday's meeting, and named his delegation.

Major General Jacinto Veloso, the white minister in the presidency for economic affairs, was chosen to lead the delegation, which included Colonels Oscar Monteiro, minister of justice, and Sergio Vieira, governor of the northern province of Niassa and former minister of agriculture.

The Portuguese envoy then flew back to Lisbon to relay to Mr Pik Botha — on a second stopover after his 11-nation European tour — the message that President Machel had agreed to the talks.

RSA Decisions on Talks Noted

MB221928 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] The prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, says certain decisions have been taken at a meeting of the State Security Council in Cape Town in response to proposals made on Tuesday at a meeting of representatives of the governments of South Africa and Mozambique. Mr Botha said in a news statement that the decisions would be conveyed to the Mozambican Government.

According to the statement, the meeting of the State Security Council concentrated on the report by the minister of foreign affairs on his recent European visit and the most important developments in Southern Africa during the past few weeks. The meeting was attended not only be members of the State Security Council, but also by a number of members of the cabinet.

France Seen Leasing Luanda Dauphin Helicopters

MB221210 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 21 Dec 83 p 1

[Excerpt] France has decided to intervene militarily in Angola by supplying the Luanda government with 37 formidable Dauphin gunship helicopters.

The French plan is for the Angolan army, and its Cuban allies, to beat back an expected UNITA attack and save the MPLA regime.

James Tomlins, of *THE STAR*'s Foreign News Service, reports from Paris that aviation sources say the helicopters will be leased to Angola and will come straight from French Air Force stocks. It is not known who will supply the pilots.

Unconfirmed reports say that the Dauphins are sent to Lisbon, where they are turned into armoured gunships. Some of them are reported to be in Angola already.

But the Dauphin, with speeds of up to 315 km/hour and a range of 450 kilometres carrying 14 men, is formidable enough even without being refitted.

The helicopters, if properly handled, could prove to be a major problem for UNITA.

The French Government has refused to comment on the Dauphin reports, as it did over the five Super-Etendards it supplied to Iraq for its war against Iran. But the same military and aviation sources which broke that story have also provided information about the lease of the Dauphin helicopters to Angola.

SADF Chief Discloses 'Limited' Angola Campaign

MB231008 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1005 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 23, SAPA — Elements of the security forces are involved in a "limited" campaign against SWAPO terrorists in southern Angola, the chief of the South African Defence Force, General Constand Viljoen, disclosed in Pretoria today.

The disclosure comes amid continuing reports from Angola that South African forces are locked in a fierce battle with Angolan troops in the south of the war-torn former Portuguese colony.

In a communique issued in Pretoria this morning — the first by South Africa since the Angolan authorities claimed South African forces had launched a new attack on its soil — General Viljoen said:

"As in previous years during the rainy season, SWAPO is trying to infiltrate South-West Africa (Namibia) along corridors and logistic routes to activate especially the Kavango.

"The warning in this connection was also issued last week by Mr Kurt von Schirnding, the South African ambassador to the United Nations, during a speech to the Security Council.

"Elements of the security forces are involved in a limited campaign against SWAPO terrorists in Southern Angola and are conducting a follow-up operation to ward off this onslaught.

"The SADF and the SWA Territory Force will continue carrying out its instructions to ensure the safety of its forces and that of the inhabitants of South-West Africa." The statement gave no further details.

'Fierce Fighting' Reported

MB221545 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] South African and Angolan forces are engaged in fierce fighting in southern Angola. That is according to a Radio Angola report quoted in a Johannesburg afternoon newspaper. The broadcast is quoted as saying South African troops have launched attacks on the Angolan-held strategic town of Cahama. It is the southernmost town still held by Angolan and Cuban troops.

The South African Defense Force [SADF] says in reaction to the report that it has nothing to add to a weekend statement. It said then that the only SADF presence in southern Angola was in hot pursuit operations against SWAPO.

SWAZILAND

Bail Granted to 11 Charged With Treason

MB221817 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] The high court of Swaziland, presided over by Justice Ben Dunn, today granted 2,000-emalangeni bail to each of the 11 people who are charged with high treason. The 11 applicants who were granted bail today are Chief Dambuza Lukhele, Prince Matatazela Dlamini, Xolie Susan Dlamini, Princess Mncane, Beauty Hlophe, Petros Phungwayo, Samson Dlamini, Princess Buyisiwe, Reverend Gilbert Motsa, Africa Mhlanga, and Bonisile Ethel Bello.

Reading judgment of the case, Mr Dunn said the applicants in their affidavits denied knowledge of the charges which alleged that the accused had plotted to overthrow the government. Conditions for the bail were that all the applicants should report to the police every day by 0900, that they should not interfere with crown witnesses, and that they should surrender any passports or travel documents in their possession, making no attempts to apply for issuing of any other passports or travel documents.

Foreign Ministry Denies ANC Report of Botha Charge

MB221140 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND 22 Dec 83 p 20

[By *TIMES* reporter]

[Text] The ANC has issued a statement giving an assurance that it will never attempt to use Swaziland as a springboard for forays into South Africa, SAPA reports.

The statement was issued in New York by the ANC for the United Nations.

SAPA reports that the charge that the ANC was using the kingdom for such purposes was made by South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha during his visit to Swaziland this week.

The reports says Mr Botha asked Swaziland to eject ANC members he alleged were operating from this country.

In a statement, the ANC accused Mr Botha of "dirty tricks and of fomenting conflict between the ANC and the Swaziland Government."

But a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Swaziland said he did not know what the ANC were reacting to because he was not aware of any accusations that the ANC were using Swaziland for any hostile activities against anyone alleged that the ANC were using Swaziland to establish any bases. [sentence as published] "All we have said in the past, and we will say it, is that our country will not allow anybody to use its territory against our neighbors," he said.

Labor Minister Returns From Harare PTA Meeting

MB230530 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] The minister for labor and public service, Mr Mhlangano Matsebula, has returned home from Harare, Zimbabwe, where he represented Swaziland in the second meeting of the authority of the Preferential Trade Area [PTA] for eastern and southern Africa. The heads of state and government during the meeting reaffirmed their belief in the commitment to the PTA as an instrument for the promotion of collective self-reliant and self-sustaining economic development within the eastern and southern African subregion with a view to the creation of a subregional economic community in compliance with the Lagos plan of action.

At the meeting, the developed countries' unwillingness to implement the New Economic Order and the inability of international institutions to come to the assistance of developing countries despite the current international economic crisis facing the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries within the subregion, was deplored. The countries of the subregion also resolved to rely upon themselves by supporting the PTA to enable it to work.

The meeting of the authority was preceded by the third meeting of the Council of Ministers, which was attended by the minister for commerce, industry, mines, and economic planning, Mr Derick von Wissel.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Press Conference Remarks Detailed

MB221943 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda today ordered leaders at all levels to stop pointing accusing fingers at each other and engaging in shouting matches over sensitive issues like the rising prices of commodities. The president has also advised the press to tread carefully when writing on explosive issues like price increases and said the media should be factual or risk becoming a destroyer. Speaking at a State House press conference today, Dr Kaunda said the nation was in a crisis, and in such a situation people will get lost if they do not understand the crisis and how to manage it. He said the nation must adopt a policy of right thinking and right living, which entails not only understanding the crisis but also knowing how to manage it properly.

The president also called on appropriate authorities to study the possibilities of turning the Mechanical Services Department [MSD] and the Parent-Teachers Association into cooperatives as well as the possibility of establishing governing boards in hospitals. He told the press conference that pilfering had reached an alarming proportion at the MSD and that, despite the ability of

the minister of works and supply, Haswell Mwale, it was impossible for him to supervise the department. Dr Kaunda said the Central Committee should obtain the results of the study of transforming the department into a (?corporation) within 6 months from now.

On hospitals, the president, who revealed that he had received a 50,000 kwacha cheque from a well-wisher contributing to the betterment of hospitals, directed the chairman of the social and cultural committee, Bob Litana, and health minister, Mark Tambatamba, to look into the formation of boards to run hospitals. He said the boards, which would be directly under the minister of health, would also have to raise money to improve hospitals.

On the Parent-Teachers Association, Dr Kaunda said these were doing a lot of things in schools, adding that he saw no reason why they could not be turned into instruments of the party. He said the association could establish cooperative bookshops to sell books and other school materials, adding that the book industry in the country had gone to pieces.

On the international scene, his excellency, Dr Kaunda, thanked the American Government for stopping Israel from harrassing the beleaguered PLO forces loyal to Yasir 'Arafat, who are being evacuated from Lebanon. He also commended France and Greece for making the evacuation possible by providing security and ships to transport Mr 'Arafat and thousands of his followers who have been forced out of the Lebanese town of Tripoli by rebel forces backed by Syria. Dr Kaunda told the American ambassador to Zambia, Mr Platt, that he was very happy with the American action, adding that similar future actions could bring peace to the Middle East.

On the suggestion by Nigerian president, Shehu Shagari, for an African peacekeeping force to replace Cubans in Angola, Dr Kaunda said the idea was rejected by Angola, and as such, whatever Zambia's stand on it was, now it was immaterial.

Meanwhile, Dr Kaunda has pardoned a group of Malawian nationals who had been served with deportation orders following their appeal to him against the order. He said he had forgiven them and allowed them to stay in Zambia because he was not sure what fate the Malawians would meet in Malawi.

Kaunda Announces New Zambian Cabinet 22 Dec
AB230900 Paris AFP in English 0844 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Lusaka, Dec 23 (AFP) — The new Zambian cabinet named yesterday by President Kenneth Kaunda is as follows:

Prime Minister:	Nalumino Mundia
Agriculture:	General Kingsley Chinkuli
Commerce and Industry:	L.S. Subulwa
Cooperatives:	J.J. Mukando
Defense:	Clement Mwananshiku
Finance:	Luke Mwananshiku
Foreign Affairs:	Lameck Goma
General Education & Culture:	Kebby Musokotwane
Health:	Mark Tambatamba
Higher Education:	Rajah Kunda
Information & Broadcasting:	Cosmas Chibanda
Labor & Social Services:	Frederick Hapunda
Lands & Natural Resources:	Fabiano Chelah
Legal Affairs (Attorney General):	Gibson Chigaga
Mines:	Basil Kabwe
Development Planning:	Henry Meebelo
National Guidance:	Arnold Simuchimba
Power, Transport and Communications:	Frederick Chuula
Tourism:	R. Skuhuka
Works and Supply:	H.Y. Mwale
Youth and Sport:	B.C. Kokoma

ZIMBABWE

Harare Reports Release of Detained Officers
MB221837 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] The government has released three Air Force officers who had been detained following the sabotage of aircraft at the Thornhill Air Base in Gweru last year. Their release was announced today by the acting minister of home affairs, Comrade Simbi Mubako. He said their release is in accordance with a statement which the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, made upon his return from the Commonwealth conference in New Delhi last month.

The statement said recommendations made to the government by the review tribunal earlier this month were considered, and it was decided that the officers should be released. The officers, John Robert Cox, Neville Weir, and Barrington Lloyd, will be allowed to remain in the country for a limited period of time, to enable them to wind up their affairs.